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16 November 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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EFFECTIVE STEPS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION DISCUSSED

Gulf Companies Listed, Described

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 Aug 82 p 9

Article: "Gulf Economic Cooperation - Part I"

Text In just a few years the Gulf Cooperation Council
GCC nations have achieved a great economic upsurge.

Diversification of the production base is the basis of development and the guarantee of a national income.

'UKAZ continues to publish the most important Arab and Gulf studies being prepared by the research centers and prominent Arab and Gulf experts and economists. This is being done in an attempt to provide an assessment of our current economic situation, with the objective of gaining a glimpse of the future, arriving at horizons of comprehensive development, and consolidating the efforts being made to formulate a unified strategy on the levels of both the Gulf area and the Arab world in order to confront the economic challenges faced by the Arab nations. This can be done by having responsible business circles avail themselves of present and future resources and potential for the sake of better cooperation and building an economic entity capable of meeting the needs and aspirations of the natives of the Arab Gulf area and realizing the ambitions of the entire Arab world.

Last week 'UKAZ published the study entitled "Toward a Unified Monetary Policy" which was prepared by Dr Hazim al-Bablawi of the Kuwait Industrial Bank. This week 'UKAZ is presenting to its readers, in two installments, a study which was prepared by the Economic Circle of the Secretariat General of the Federation of Gulf Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the study is entitled "Gulf Economic Cooperation."

Great Upurge

In recent times the Arab Gulf area has witnessed large-scale changes and developments in the political, economic, and social fields. For quite some time now the Gulf Arab nations have been making efforts to establish various forms of collective and bilateral economic integration and cooperation. On

various levels the objective has been to provide Gulf-wide business citizenship to natural and juridical persons of the Gulf area, enable the principal economic sectors to engage in their activities and business, facilitate the flow of commodities and movement of individuals and capital, grant freedom of ownership, investment, and work, and to encourage the establishment of joint projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, transportation, insurance, money-changing, and other services. The following will be an attempt on our part to review both the areas of joint cooperation between the Gulf Arab nations and the bases of cooperation on their part with the GCC.

Areas of Joint Cooperation With the GCC

Defining the areas of joint Gulf cooperation should begin with becoming acquainted with the nature of economic circumstances in the area, the principal goals which the member nations of the GCC are striving toward, the difficulties anticipated in this regard, and the solutions proposed to overcome these difficulties. It should be mentioned that the Gulf Arab nations are all in agreement concerning one common goal, which is the diversification of their production base in order to guarantee a permanent source of national income which will take the place of revenues currently obtained from the petroleum sector. We also note that the Gulf area's scarce production resources apart from the petroleum sector and its reliance on importing commodities, workers, and technology from abroad are among the obstacles which stand in the way of achieving the objectives aspired to. In addition to this, the national markets of the GCC member nations are very small and limited. In spite of this, though, the nations of the area have succeeded in setting up a number of production enterprises. Also, current development plan programs have included the establishment of new projects in the industrial sector for the purpose of having industrial products produced in the Gulf nations replace foreign imports. At a later stage, surpluses resulting from this production can be exported. One concludes from this that the setting up of a common market assumes the existence of large commodity surpluses which are confronted with quantitative restrictions and high customs duties which one wants to be free of in order to increase the volume of exchange of these surpluses, attempt to decrease the intensity of foreign competition, and protect the countries of this common market from this competition.

The Field of Trade

In the field of trade the Gulf Arab nations have already concluded a number of bilateral agreements with each other. But these agreements, although they are important, have not dealt with all of the fields which need to be dealt with for the sake of Gulf cooperation. For this reason, as soon as it was established, the GCC hastened to call upon the ministers of finance and economy to prepare the rough draft of a unified economic agreement which would replace the bilateral agreements. We hope that this agreement will contribute toward laying the necessary foundations for a joint economic plan regarding the foreign trade of the Gulf Arab nations. This would entail compiling the yearly requirements of the principal foodstuff commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, and vegetable oils, conducting negotiations in order to secure these foodstuffs under appropriate conditions in the form of a single transaction through

changing information concerning the specifications of these foodstuffs, and constantly monitoring the changing world-market prices of these commodities and comparing these prices with the prices at which they are sold to other countries. This would be accomplished by a foreign trade advisory commission which would represent the import and export agencies in the Gulf nations and those members of the private sector who engage in importing foodstuffs and supplies, or else would be accomplished by a joint Gulf import and export company having stockholders from the private sector. The sphere of activity of this commission or company would be restricted to the importing of the principal foodstuff commodities previously referred to, that is, wheat, rice, sugar, and vegetable oils. This approach would give a Gulf negotiator a great deal of negotiating strength as well as an advantageous economic position which would enable him to obtain reasonable and appropriate prices for the purchase of imported commodities and would guarantee that they be of good quality. Since the many different systems of commerce, with their many ramifications, which are currently in effect in the Gulf Arab nations constitute a factor which obstructs joint economic cooperation In the Gulf area, and since the achievement of coordination among these systems would help to facilitate trade among the member nations of the GCC, the Federation of Gulf Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry points out the importance of the recommendations and decisions issued by the Gulf ministers of trade during their second congress which was held in Riyadh on 10 Safar 1399 A.H. (8 January 1979). These recommendations and decisions reaffirmed the necessity of this type of coordination as a part of the foundation of the integration aspired to.

Investment

Concerning the field of investment, in view of the steady increase in savings and capital surpluses which is taking place, what is required is the application of joint investment policies which would lead to having these surpluses maintain their purchasing power. In this regard the Gulf International Bank has managed to become internationally prominent as an Arab financial establishment for investment. For this reason, it has become necessary to further consolidate this success on the part of this establishment, strengthen co-operation between this bank and the central banks and development funds in the Gulf Arab nations, and establish more banking institutions for development or else study the possibility of having the national development funds merge into a single fund or a single banking institution which would have branches in the Gulf nations. The time has come for the private sector to play its role in participating in Arab economic development after appropriate legislative conditions have been created for guaranteeing capital and Arab investment and for providing incentives and privileges for it, and after the Arab summit has ratified this course of joint Arab action, the Arab development decade project, and the unified agreement for the investment of Arab capital.

At this point it might be useful to review some of the bilateral and joint Gulf enterprises and companies currently in existence in order to find out which economic sectors they are operating in.

1. The Arab Investment Company, with headquarters in Riyadh. This company has contributed toward the financing of 18 Arab projects. They have included the production of sugar, the production of cement, metal industries, poultry production, hotels, and the refining of petroleum. Its capital stockholders are some of the government institutions in the Gulf nations.
2. The General Arab Investment Company (Sha'a'), with headquarters in the UAE, and with capital of 700 million dirhams. Its stockholders are citizens and companies from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Sudan, and Tunisia, and it began business operations not long ago.
3. The Gulf Union Insurance Company, with headquarters in Bahrain, and with capital of 6 million Bahraini dinars. Its stockholders are investors from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain.
4. The Arab Reinsurance Group (AREG), with headquarters in Bahrain and with capital of \$3 billion. Its stockholders are Kuwait, Qatar, Libya, and the UAE.
5. The Gulf Air Company, with headquarters in Bahrain. Those participating in the establishment of this company were Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and Oman.
6. The Gulf Land Transportation Company. Agreement was reached to establish this company in February 1979, with the stockholders being Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar. The steps for establishing the company have not yet been completed.
7. The United Arab Shipping Company, with headquarters in Kuwait. Partners in this company are Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Iraq, and Kuwait.
8. The Gulf International Bank, with headquarters in Manamah Bahrain, and with capital of 400 million Bahraini dinars. Its stockholders are Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain, and it began business operations in 1976.
9. The Aluminum-Rolling Enterprise in Bahrain. Agreement has been reached to establish this enterprise, and the necessary steps are being taken to complete the establishment of the enterprise.
10. The Gulf Petrochemicals Manufacturing Company, with headquarters in Bahrain and capital of 60 million Bahraini dinars. Its stockholders are companies from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain.
11. The (Humble) Maritime Painting Company, with headquarters in Saudi Arabia. It was established in 1973, and its capital is 150,000 Kuwaiti dinars. Its stockholders are Saudi and Kuwaiti companies in cooperation with Danish companies.
12. The Bahrain Flour-Milling Company, with headquarters in Bahrain and with capital of 1.6 million Bahraini dinars. Those participating in the establishment of the company were the government of Bahrain and Kuwait and Bahraini stockholders.

13. The Cement Production Enterprise in al-Hufuf, with headquarters in Saudi Arabia. Its stockholders are Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

14. The Gulf Agricultural Development Company, with headquarters in the principality of Sharjah. This company was established in 1977, and it has a capital of 200,000 dirhams. The goal of the company is the reclamation of land, the processing and canning of fruits and vegetables, the raising of cattle, the raising of poultry, the establishment of milk-processing plants, and the production of fodder. This company has participated in the establishment and expansion of fodder-producing plants and grain silos as well as the setting up of enclosed areas for raising animals. It has earned profits of more than 2.5 million dirhams. Also, it has participated in the establishment of refrigeration plants in Morocco and is a capital stockholder in the Kuwait Biscuit Manufacturing Company, the International Plant Nursery Company in Kuwait, the Gulf International Insurance Company, the Coast Investment and Development Company, and the Arab Coast Bank.

15. The Gulf Cement Company.

16. The Gulf Investment Company.

17. The Gulf International Center.

18. The Pearl Investment Company.

19. The Kuwait and Gulf Financial Center.

20. The Dubai Investment Company.

21. The 'Ajman Investment Company.

22. The Arab International Development Company.

In addition to this, we note that recently there has been steadily increasing interest in studying the matter of issuing a Gulf Arab dinar or a standardized Arab currency whose reserves would be covered by petroleum production instead of by foreign currencies or gold. There is no doubt that the creation of a united Gulf Arab financial market and a Gulf monetary unit would greatly help to link the national economies of the Gulf nations to each other and would create a type of integration between them which, in the future, would lead to the necessary formula for economic unification.

On the international level, there is great interest in the industrial sector as represented by the sector of petroleum and its derivatives. Most of the Gulf Arab nations are virtually in agreement that the principal orientations and directions for industrializing their economies should be those of concentrating on national projects for the processing of petroleum, the refining of petroleum, producing liquefied natural gas, producing petrochemicals, and the manufacture of iron, steel, aluminum, cement, glass, and other building materials. All of this requires further cooperation and coordination in the areas of production and services involved in order to eliminate the fierce

competition which accompanies the establishment of enterprises of a similar type and prevent the duplication of what already exists in some of the Gulf nations—things which would negatively affect commercial exchange between the GCC member nations in their narrow common market and would result in having production capacities remain idle.

Gulf Economic Integration Discussed

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 8 Aug 82 p 9

Article: "Gulf Economic Integration - Part II"

Text Agricultural development is the basis of Gulf economic integration.

The GCC has eliminated the approach of self-isolation in order to achieve real self-sufficiency in food supply.

What is needed is a joint Gulf agreement for the expansion of the land transportation networks.

'UKAZ is continuing the publication of the important study prepared by the Economic Circle of the Secretariat General of the Federation of Gulf Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry concerning the topic "Gulf Economic Co-operation."

The first installment of the study, which was published by 'UKAZ yesterday, shed some light on the current economic situation of the GCC member nations, the features of the economic upsurge which has been achieved within the space of only a few years in the various economic and commercial fields, and the processes of economic exchange and cooperation which the Gulf arena has witnessed during the past few years.

We reached the conclusion that the diversification of the production base of the six GCC member nations has become a vital and basic goal and requirement in order for them to continue with their development plans and in order to guarantee the continuation of a source of national income for them.

This installment of the study will discuss bases for cooperation in the field of agricultural development and the field of transportation and communications.

Agricultural Development

Agricultural development is organically linked to comprehensive development and economic integration and liberalization, and it also necessitates the creation of a comprehensive national concept in accordance with scientific and well-thought-out planning. Agriculture in the Gulf area and in the Arab world as a whole represents one of the weakest links in the chain of Arab strategic security. The economy of the Arab world has been subjected to negative influences during the last few years as a result of the rapid increase in

production of the principal foodstuffs in order to close the gap between production and consumption. This is dangerous because of the monopolization by a small number of Food exporters, of some countries' markets of basic foodstuff products such as wheat, and these food-exporting countries have not hesitated to brandish the food weapon in the faces of others. It is perhaps ironic that a decrease in agricultural production is taking place under circumstances of an abundance of Arab capital. During the sixties the Arab nations managed to establish a corresponding balance between their agricultural imports and exports. Today, however, all of the Arab nations have become net importers of foodstuffs and the economy of the Arab world has been transformed from being a rural production company to being a consumer and service economy. Also, the gap between the rural and urban areas has increased because of continuous large-scale migration from the rural areas to the cities. In addition to this, the cities have been encroaching upon agricultural areas, the desert has been encroaching and gobbling up fertile lands, and the lands have been neglected. Another thing which has increased the danger of this problem is the fact that some farmers have switched over from planting crops of basic foodstuff value to planting other crops which bring in higher amounts of cash.

Current circumstances indicate that the rates of Increase in the annual consumption of food in the world will be in the neighborhood of 5 percent, whereas the rate of Increase in annual food production will not exceed 2 percent. The Arab world has become one of the areas of the world which has the largest deficit in terms of providing its own food supply, it is one of the areas of the world which does the most importing of food, and it is one of the areas of the world which most depends on the outside world.

Self-Isolation or Self-Sufficiency?

Some Arab economists assert that the Arab agricultural problem, as well as the selection by some Arab countries of isolationist development patterns and individual solutions to the problem, has resulted in self-isolation after it had been hoped that self-sufficiency would be achieved. It is necessary to deal with the agricultural problem by means of comprehensive action on national and pan-Arab foundations through the application of the principle of specialization and relative merits when choosing projects and programs, increasing our production efficiency and capability, making sure that there is a balance among the Economic sectors, providing economic infrastructures, and being concerned about the foodstuff-producing sectors.

Moreover, the recommendations of the first congress dealing with food supply in the Arab Gulf area, which was held in the UAE on 27 April 1981, emphasized the fact that the food supply of the Gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula is linked to the food supply in the other areas of the Arab world. Reference was also made to the important studies which were presented during the congress as well as to the field studies which had been prepared by work groups and Arab experts from the Agricultural Development Organization. The proposal was made to set up 35 agricultural projects, which would cost a total of \$33.2 million. It is expected that a list of the highest priorities will be set up for these projects which are linked to the Arab strategic food supply goals since they would be part of the first pan-Arab plan which would deal with joint Arab economic action.

It might perhaps be useful to refer to the most important of the regional centers and projects which have been established in the Gulf nations in cooperation with international organizations:

1. The regional project for the survey and development of fish resources. The goal of this project is to survey the fishing grounds of the Gulf area in order to make an estimate of their fish reserves..
2. The project for the survey and development of agricultural and water resources. This project is to engage in making a study of agricultural development in the Arab Gulf area.
3. The agricultural marketing project for making a study of the marketing processes which take place in the Gulf area, as well as the possibility of developing and promoting these processes.
4. The project for improving date palms. The objective of this project is to expand the planting of date palms, to improve their quality, and to increase their production.
5. The regional center for training fishing grounds employees, the purpose of which is to train native Gulf technical personnel in the field of developing and exploiting fish resources.
6. The regional center for vocational training and development in the fields of electricity, mechanics, blacksmith's work, and carpentry.
7. The animal research center.
8. The regional laboratory for agricultural research.

Transportation and Communications

The sector of transportation and communications In a given nation is considered to be the principal means by which such a nation engages in commercial and cultural exchange with other nations. This sector also contributes toward raising people's social level by means of the influence which it has on their business activities. This being true, the establishment of economic transportation networks has become a fundamental part of the process of economic and social development. Integration of these networks is the normal prelude to any economic integration in the Arab world since it will help to expand its production base, nationalize its principal industries, provide a link between Arab rural areas, cities, locations of raw materials, and industrial centers, increase production specialization and mutual links in the field of production, and facilitate the movement of manpower from one place to another. It has been noted that the increase in Arab national income, especially in the oil-producing nations, has produced a greater demand for transportation and services generally. This reaffirms the existence of a close relationship between the increase in the level of income and the amount of transportation and movement taking place.

Despite of the noticeable development which has taken place in the sector of transportation during the last few years, this sector has still not reached the level which is necessary for commercial and other types of/ exchange between the Arab nations.

However, the increase which is taking place in commerce and trade requires the speedy establishment of joint transportation companies in order to solve problems concerning the level of the employees in this sector and concerning the adaptation of modern tools and equipment to changing and developing policies and legislation concerning the field of transportation. In this regard, the following proposals are being made:

Seven Proposals

1. Expansion of land transportation networks, making a study of the possibility of concluding a joint agreement among the member nations for the purpose of facilitating transit trade and standardizing and abridging procedures dealing with certificates of origin, insurance documents, customs tariffs, and the movement of goods and passengers, provision of maintenance and service centers along highways near borders, expansion of railroad networks, and linking ports to principal cities.
2. Making a study of the possibility of linking to Kuwait the railroad line which The Saudis have decided to put in between Riyadh and al-Jubayl in view of the fact that Kuwait is so close to both of them, linking al-Hufuf (in Saudi Arabia) to Qatar and the UAE, and then linking these locations to the Sultanate of Oman when the economic feasibility of such a plan has been demonstrated.
3. Standardization of the activities and business engaged in by the Gulf airline companies, achievement of cooperation and integration among these airline companies, overcoming the difficulties which stand in the way of establishing a Gulf air transportation federation, increasing the operational efficiency of the Gulf airlines, standardization of the prices of internal flights and the fees for transporting Arab Gulf national products, establishment of more maintenance workshops, provision of spare tools and equipment at the Gulf Arab airports, increasing the number of training centers, and training qualified aviation personnel.
4. Development of the Gulf merchant marines in such a way as to guarantee a Gulf Arab maritime presence when dealing with the domination of some of the international maritime carriers, and coordination of steps relating to the issuing of a single insurance document for insuring Gulf Arab fleets. This would result in reducing insurance premiums because Arab negotiators would enjoy a strong negotiating position, and would emphasize the merit of collective Gulf Arab cooperation, especially since the total value of insurance on Arab fleets at the present time is more than \$2 billion and the insurance premiums constitute 20 percent of the total operational costs of the fleets.

5. Exchange of information and data among Gulf transportation companies, federations, and special organizations in order that this information be utilized when marketing maritime vessels, oils, dyes, or chemical products utilized in ship docks. The provision of such information In connection with~~U~~ purchase offers would lead to the formulation of standardized principles for purchase contracts, and this would mean financial savings for the companies and member nations.

6. Development of the Arab ports, provision of financial resources to Arab naval academies and institutes, increasing the number of Arab maritime enterprises and companies, with preference given to Gulf Arab ships, shortening the waiting time for unloading ships, setting low incentive prices for these ships when they must be supplied with fuel in Gulf Arab ports, coordination of maritime laws and procedures, and striving to standardize them in the future.

7. Supporting the Gulf Postal Commission, and expanding its functions and activities so that they will include telephone, telegraph, and telex services, and studying the establishment of a Gulf commission or federation for wire and wireless communications.

In short, the establishment of the GCC has created a Gulf Arab economic bloc which is characterized by the fact that it possesses a surplus of capital and is in need of the required labor force and other elements of production. As we have already stated, an increase in the rates of industrial development will, in the long run, lead to an increase in domestic demand for consumer goods and an increase in the Gulf economy's capacity for absorption, and will also lead to more competition for the Gulf markets. For this reason, we are pointing out the importance of preparing ourselves, starting right now, to set the necessary criteria for industrial coordination and commercial cooperation so that they will be based on the foundations of mutual economic interests.

As for industrial integration on the basis of joint projects and production stages, this could provide greater absorption capacity for industrial development in the Gulf Arab nations.

Concerning the matter of providing other sources of income, it is necessary to encourage the establishment of joint projects in agriculture, transportation, insurance, and credit, and it is necessary to establish corporations for both petroleum and non-petroleum energy production.

Bases of Cooperation

The historic step taken to establish the GCC was one which was characterized by seriousness, true determination, and concurrence in the principal orientations and directions followed by the various Gulf nations. All of this, plus the fact that the Gulf Arab nations are very similar to each other, is something which assures that it will be easier to attain the goals aspired to. The basic documents of the GCC have focused on supporting coordination, integration, and mutual interrelationships between the member nations in all

fields, with the objective being to achieve unity of these nations and to push forward the wheels of scientific and technical progress in the fields of industry, agriculture, mining, natural resources, and animal wealth. Other objectives are the establishment of scientific research centers and the encouragement of the private sector in the Gulf Arab nations to become stock-holders in companies and enterprises. All of this would lead to inter-linking the economic interests of the citizens of the Gulf Arab nations in various fields.

The documents of the Federation of Gulf Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as well as the federation's constitution, contained references supporting efforts to achieve integration and coordination of the economies of the Gulf Arab nations in the fields of industry, agriculture, trade, and services, efforts to develop, maintain, and protect These economies, efforts to institute the right to Gulf-wide business citizenship for the citizens of the Gulf Arab nations, including the right to work, own property, and make investments In any Gulf Arab nation, efforts to institute freedom of movement of goods and individuals without any administrative or customs restrictions, participation in the establishment of joint projects and companies and treating them in every Gulf Arab nation as if they were national companies, and increasing efforts to strengthen the bonds of economic cooperation between the Gulf Arab nations.

In order to achieve these objectives the Federation of Gulf Chambers of Commerce and Industry is working within a framework of coordination and follow-up work along with official bodies and on the basis of decisions made at meetings held by responsible officials which relate to Gulf economic integration and cooperation. The federation is also making efforts to make contacts and coordinate with Gulf organizations, agencies, and establishments which work within the fields involving the federation's objectives.

9468
CSO: 4404/655

KARMAL MESSAGE COMMEMORATING UN ANNIVERSARY

LD270742 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 24 Oct 82

[Text] Kabul, 23 Oct, Bakhtar--Babruk Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the revolutionary council of the DRA has communicated the following message to the UN Secretary General, Javier de Cuellar on the occasion of the 37th year of UN foundation, to New York:

Dear Mr Perez de Cuellar,

I have the pleasure to extend the felicitation of the people, the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and of my own on the auspicious occasion of 37th Founding Anniversary of the United Nations.

The United Nations which came into existence after a fierce destructive international war and as a result of victory of peace over fascism and warmongering quarter related to it, [as received] played very constructive and positive role in securing peace and stability in the world and preventing world facing another international war.

The valuable services of the United Nations in Human, socioeconomic, cultural and legal areas cannot be denied. During the current year United Nations accomplished valuable tasks, the conference on the Law of the Sea which convened in spring of 1982 adopted important decisions of giving official status to the draft convention, and the eleventh session of the conference in March and April 1982 in New York, adopted the said convention. The [word indistinct] special UN General Assembly session devoted to disarmament, held in 7 June 1982 was another constructive step towards decreasing arms race, and diminishing tension in the world.

Adoption of the program of action on aging [word indistinct] the World Assembly on Aging in July is another important event in the field of humanity. We hope results of these efforts will prove beneficial and fruitful to peoples all over the world.

The United Nations tireless efforts created an atmosphere of trust and friendship, and its activities resulted in the establishment of constructive and profitable relations between countries of the world. But unfortunately inspite of the efficacious efforts of the United Nations and peace loving countries of

the world in the interest of world peace and security, still some countries and circles are threatening the peace and security of the world by following apartheid, racism, militaristic policies and through intensification of arms race. These hostile actions are against spirit [word indistinct] detente and coexistence policies.

I am quite sure that your excellency [will] agree with me, that our world faces a very critical situation, and the need for peace and security is far greater than any other moment of the human history.

The recent barbaric aggressions of Israelis and their reactionary patrons on Lebanon and massacre of hundreds of Palestinians, Lebanese, and defenceless men and women, and children in Lebanon are flagrant violations of accepted international principles and imposed a great danger to international relations, it even could lead the world to the brink of another war.

I would like to express my deepest satisfaction and many thanks to your excellency for your constructive endeavor in [word indistinct] honourable political solution to the problems around Afghanistan. You may rest assured that the DRA will cooperate very honestly in achieving the above mentioned aims with the United Nations. We have proved this by taking the right stand and showing reasonable flexibility.

I would like to reaffirm that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will always remain a faithful member to the United Nations [word indistinct] to accomplish its international commitments and we will stand firm behind United Nations in achieving its humanitarian goals in the interest of peace security, detente and progress.

Please accept, your excellency, my best wishes for the further successes of the organization and our appreciation for your [words indistinct] endeavours aimed at promoting realization of the charter.

Babruk Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the revolutionary council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

CSO: 4600/43

DOCTOR RELATES DEMOGRAPHIC RESULTS OF PANSHIR OPERATIONS

Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Jul 82 p 4

[Article by Patrice Beer: "Testimony on the Situation in the Panshir Valley: Resistance Has Checked Immense Soviet Offensive and Is Reorganizing Around New Leaders"]

[Text] Last May some twenty thousand Soviet and Afghan soldiers, supported by armor, artillery and air forces, set out for the fifth time since 1979 to attack the Panshir Valley, one day's march to the north of Kabul. They seemed capable of making short work of the 1000 to 1500 moudjahidin and their young leader Massoud. Now the first triumphant communiqus from Kabul gave way to other, more embarrassed ones, when it was confirmed that the insurgents had not only held out but that the valley had in large part been evacuated by the assailants, who suffered heavy losses.

Doctor Laurence Laumonier from the humanitarian organization AMI,* who had been on the spot since January with another physician, Doctor Capucine from Brittany, gave us her testimony on the first 20 days of the Soviet offensive and on the organization of the valley, which seems to herald a new, less traditionalist type of resistance to the Soviets and the Kabul regime.

Long in the preparation, this offensive had been known to the leader of the resistance as early as 9 April, through an official Afghan army report which he received from Kabul. The Panshir movement is, in fact, in regular contact with the captain. "Massoud was receiving reports from Kabul via messenger the entire time. In five months there was a bombing every eight or ten days on the average; they generally knew in advance which village was going to be bombed... One day I saw two brothers arrive--soldiers, who wanted to join the resistance. Massoud accepted one, who was a simple soldier, and told the other that he was more useful in his unit." The Panshiris have 80 percent Soviet arms, captured in combat or sometimes purchased in Kabul.

The Soviet offensive, scheduled for 27 April, the date of the national holiday and at the time when the Afghan peasants water their crops, was called off

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because of the Panshiris and Chamalis' combined attack on the Bagram airport-- 25 planes were destroyed--then a munitions depot on the outskirts of the capital on 2 May. The offensive was a partial surprise, however, because the insurgents were expecting it the following day and were in the process of burying their provisions before heading for the mountains.

In one month there were some hundred civilian deaths out of a population of 100,000, slight losses among the moudjahidin and very heavy ones among the assailants. The latter, however, had air cover from the Soviet airports, according to a captured Afghan pilot, and they bombed the villages systematically.

According to Doctor Laumonier, the morale and tactics of Massoud's men, as well as the population's support, are the key to their success. She saw wounded men return to combat after receiving first aid because "no one in Panshir ever thought that the game was lost." Very soon after the helicopter-borne attacks, the response was organized. "Commandos alighting from helicopters were killed one after the other in the valley gorges. In a larger spot a camp of Soviet tents was attacked at the end of two days: the result, 500 to 600 victims." The doctor estimates losses at two or three thousand men and some 50 tanks. After 20 days half the valley had been evacuated. The Afghan army camps which remained were isolated, and the garrisons did not leave them.

The population had been evacuated toward the adjacent valleys where their officials were warned each day by messengers from Massoud's general headquarters about the progress of the previous day's operations. The resistance is, in fact, very well organized. Five committees--culture and security, economy, politics, military and health--include elected delegates in each village. The schools have been reopened, and even have libraries. The AMI physicians have formed 17 "barefoot hospitals."

Furthermore, the two witnesses note growing solidarity between the underground forces of different regions. "When I went back to Pakistan," Doctor Laumonier told us, "we met moudjahidin coming from the neighboring plateau of Chamali, who were bringing sacks of grain and raisins to Panshir... A thousand Hazars from Bamyan, people from Kunduz, some hundred from Andarab in the north, 300 from Nouristan, had come to help the Panshiris, who have become a symbol of the resistance. Massoud entrusted them with opposing the arrival of new Soviet tanks... The Tadjiks of Panshir are in contact with their brothers from the U.S.S.R. One Soviet anti-aircraft artilleryman who had rallied to the resistance was from Tadjikistan. He told me that other deserters of the same nationality had participated in the attack on the Kabul depot."

The growing solidarity between ethnic groups enabled the Panshiris pouring in to find asylum with their neighbors, just as in December-January they themselves had welcomed the residents of Khestan, who had been expelled by a government offensive. Doctor Laumonier says that "the resistance has changed its face."

New leaders, less than 30 years old, she says, "have emerged to wage war. Often educated, they are cooperating and organizing joint operations. Some of them are often seen in Massoud's camp, having come to share arms or train. As good Muslims, of course, they sometimes feel that Islam of the mullahs is a misunderstood Islam." "Massoud himself wishes to reduce through persuasion the oppressive or reactionary aspects of Islam which the mullahs preach. Thus in some villages, dowries are no longer paid for women."

Despite the success achieved, the situation is difficult, and war is very hard. Infant mortality is estimated at 35-40 percent; tuberculosis is working havoc; physicians are scarce, and they lack resources. The Soviet offensive has badly damaged the crops, and the months to come threaten to be difficult. However, concludes Doctor Laumonier, who hopes to be able to return to Afghanistan, "the Panshiris are not yet tired of war. I do not think that they plan to take refuge in Pakistan." Some are going so far as to dream that once "Kabul is liberated," they will go "to help their Tadzhik brothers in the Soviet Union."

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AFGHANISTAN

'RUDE PRAVO' INTERVIEWS' DRA'S KESHTMAND

LD220854 Prague CTK in English 0802 GMT 22 Oct 82

[Text] Prague [no date as received]--American imperialism has taken a hostile standpoint to the Afghan people and the National Democratic Revolution since its very beginning, and has been carrying out hostile policy towards Afghanistan since the victory of the April revolution, Afghan Premier Sultan Ali Keshtmand stressed in his interview for today's RUDE PRAVO.

The U.S. supported the Afghan counterrevolution materially and supplied it with weapons at the beginning but in the second stage of the April revolution the U.S. imperialism threw off its mask and supports the Afghan counterrevolution openly now. U.S. President Ronald Reagan even declared a so-called day of Afghanistan on 21 March to encourage all forces allied with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, the Afghan premier stressed.

The U.S. is sending even more instructors into the camps of the Afghan counterrevolution on the territory of Pakistan, and the U.S. imperialism is also behind the so-called Afghan question, included recently against the will of the government and the people of Afghanistan in the agenda of the UN General Assembly. The U.S. is, in fact, carrying out an aggression against Afghanistan and interfering in its internal affairs. But the Afghan people will not let themselves be intimidated by any American "aid," the Afghan representative stressed.

The Afghan Government has repeated in the declaration of August 1981 its willingness to take the real situation and new aspects of a political solution of questions concerning Afghanistan into consideration. The declaration has proposed a number of important changes without violating the basic principle of the political solution formulated in the declaration of May 1980.

In the spirit of the principles expressed in the two documents Afghanistan had discussions with Pakistan in Geneva this June, has always been prepared to discuss a political solution of the situation and normalize relations with Pakistan and Iran, but the governments of these two states are practically boycotting Afghanistan's efforts, Sultan Ali Keshtmand underlined.

The Pakistani regime is a puppet of American imperialism and Chinese Hegemonism, and pursues their hostile policy towards the Afghan people, the Afghan representative said, and expressed the hope that Pakistan and Iran will recognize the necessity of a political solution of the situation.

KESHTMAND ON AFGHAN STAND, ECONOMY

AU270801 Prague RUDT PRAVO in Czech 22 Oct 82 p 7

[Interview given by "Comrade Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), member of the Revolutionary Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan," to Josef Vlcek, RUDE PRAVO special reporter, in Kabul: "The Revolution Cannot Be Intimidated; A Talk on Today's Afghanistan"--date not given]

[Excerpts] As is known, various economic sectors have objectively emerged in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and continue to operate there. Apart from the state and cooperative sector we also have a mixed and private capitalist sector, particularly in transport, agriculture and commerce. On top of that, not only is the traditional seminatural and natural economy typical for the rural areas, but also for the tribe structure.

This multisectoral arrangement will make it possible in the future to gradually overcome the development of production forces, introduce modern technology and develop education and culture.

The leading role in this process will be played by the state sector. The party and the revolutionary power will undertake all the necessary measures here, so that the reorganization of the economy will not take place to the detriment of the working people, but serve to improve the conditions of their life and work and to enhance their material and cultural standards.

The second stage of the implementation of our land reform, legalized in 1978, is successfully continuing. So far more than 700,000 hectares of land, which formerly belonged to large landowners or lay barren, have been divided among more than 300,000 landless persons and families with only a small acreage of land.

The last Afghan year alone (1981/1982) a total of 722 million Afghanis were granted as bank loans to Afghan farmers. This has yielded positive results: In 1981/1982 the production of all main agricultural produce increased--for instance, cereals and leguminous plants increased 3 percent, cotton 23 percent and sugar beets 29 percent.

In 1982/1983 a further 63 new enterprises will be put in operation in the state sector. Last year the overall national income increase amounted to 2.4 percent, and it can be stated that the country's financial situation is good. Despite the attacks of the counterrevolution, the situation is favorable also in goods transport. It can be said that transportation as a whole is functioning normally.

The situation in foreign trade is also developing favorably. Last year the active trade balance of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan amounted to \$142.2 million. Economic cooperation with the countries of the socialist community is developing very favorably.

In its declaration [of 24 August 1981] the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan again expressed its willingness to take into account the existing realistic situation, and also the new aspects of the political solution of questions concerning Afghanistan. The declaration brought a number of outstanding changes without violating the basic principle of the political solution that was formulated in the preceding declaration of 14 May 1980.

The new declaration of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan stressed, for instance, our willingness to arrange not only bilateral talks or separate discussions with Pakistan and Iran, but also the willingness to arrange tripartite talks in case the involved sides should wish this.

In the spirit of the principles expressed in the two documents, we have also participated in the talks with Pakistan in Geneva, which took place in the second half of this June. We have always been prepared--and we are still prepared--to discuss a political solution to the situation and to normalize our relations with Pakistan and Iran. As I have already stated, we have undertaken appropriate steps in this direction. This cannot be said about the governments of Pakistan and Iran, which are practically sabotaging our efforts in this direction.

The positions of the Pakistani regime are well known. It is a puppet of American imperialism and Chinese Hegemonism and is carrying out their hostile policy toward the Afghan people. Nevertheless we hope, as we have in the past, that both Pakistan and Iran will finally recognize the necessity of resolving the situation politically.

It is well known that American imperialism has adopted a hostile attitude toward the Afghan people and toward the National Democratic Revolution from its very beginning. Since the victory of the April revolution it has also been pursuing a hostile policy toward the Afghan people.

At first the United States supported the Afghan counterrevolution materially by supplying it with weapons. After Amin's reign of terror was overthrown and the second stage of the April revolution began, American imperialism took off its mask and is now openly taking the side of the Afghan counterrevolution.

U.S. President Reagan even declared 21 March a so-called day of Afghanistan. By this further extensive provocation, aimed against the Afghan revolution and the Afghan people and proclaimed with great pomp in the White House, it wanted to encourage all the forces teamed up with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries to further fight against the Afghan revolution. The United States is dispatching an increasing number of advisers to the camps of the Afghan counterrevolution on Pakistani territory. American imperialism is also behind the so-called Afghan question that was recently included, against the will of the government and people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

Thus, the United States is, in fact, carrying out aggression against our country, meddling in the internal affairs of the Afghan people. But no American "aid" to the Afghan counterrevolution can intimidate us. The United States is condemned for its hostile activity not only by the Afghan people, but by all progressive forces throughout the world.

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AFGHANISTAN

INSURGENTS ATTACK KABUL AIRPORT 13-14 OCTOBER

BK191435 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Text] New Delhi, 19 Oct (AFP)--Afghan Muslim insurgents armed with rockets attacked Kabul International Airport last week, but narrowly missed their targets of awaiting military and civil aircraft, two different diplomatic sources said here today.

The insurgents fighting the Soviet-backed government of Babrak Karmal mounted the attack on 13-14 October, the diplomats, who monitor developments in Afghanistan said.

They fired rockets at a DC-10 belonging to the state-owned Ariana Afghan Airlines, but missed it, the diplomats said.

The insurgents managed to enter the well-guarded airport, but had apparently not prepared their plans well.

Soviet troops use dogs and keep the airport under illumination at night.

The airport in Kabul is one of the two most important air bases of the Soviet troops. The other one is the military airport at Baghram about 40 km (24.5 miles) north of the city.

On earlier occasions the insurgents had managed to enter Kabul Airport and had once last year destroyed an unspecified number of aircraft.

Afghan Government troops aided by Soviet soldiers conducted a house to house search in many districts of the Kabul City during the past week. Villages around the Afghan capital were not spared either, the diplomats said.

One diplomatic source said villages around Kabul were still subject to heavy bombing and shelling.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the source said bombing was so heavy that people in the villages fled their homes and took shelter in Kabul. The villages which suffered heavy damages were Beg Tut, Khoja Musafir, Gozah and Isa Khel.

The mountain range near Faghman, about 20 mm (12 miles) northwest of Kabul was also subject to heavy bombings, the diplomat said. The source, however, could not give figures on the damage, but said it was heavy.

The Soviet military command in Afghanistan had launched the bombing raids earlier this month to drive out the population suspected to harbour the insurgents and deprive the resistance of its main bases near the capital.

The bombings on the villages in a radius of 30 km (18 miles) from Kabul had began on 6 October.

The bombing raids were confirmed by independent non-Afghan eyewitnesses.

CSO: 4600/43

AFGHANISTAN

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT INTENSIFIED FIGHTING

BK191639 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Text] Islamabad, 19 Oct (AFP)--Intensified fighting in many areas of Afghanistan has pitted Mujahedeen resistance fighters against Afghan Government forces and their Red Army backers.

For over a month now the vast high northern plateau of Afghanistan has been the theatre of repeated skirmishes between resistance fighters and Soviet troops, Western diplomatic sources in the Pakistani capital reported.

Previously this region bordering on the Soviet Union and rich in natural gas was firmly under Soviet army control.

But life in the main northern town of Mazar-i-sharif was today increasingly hazardous despite troop reinforcements by the Afghan Government and its Soviet backers.

While central government and Soviet troops still controlled the city during the day, diplomats said the market closed early and food prices had risen steeply because the Mujahedeen resistance controlled access roads to the town.

(In New Delhi, two separate diplomatic sources said today that Afghan insurgents armed with rockets had attacked Kabul International Airport on 13-14 October, but had failed to hit any military or civilian aircraft.

(The diplomats, who monitor developments in Afghanistan, said the guerrillas had fired rockets at an Afghan jetliner waiting at the normally well-guarded airport.)

Sources said earlier this month a group of resistance fighters killed 35 Soviet troops in a battle around the besieged village of Mangajik near the north western garrison of Aksha.

Diplomats, citing independent experts, said resistance groups of the Tajik and Turkoman ethnic groups were efficiently coordinating operations.

In the general fight against the Kabul Government, the Harakat and Mohammadni parties were predominant while the Shi'ite Nasr and the fundamentalist Hazbi Islami groups were losing ground.

Near Kabul, skirmishes went on all week as Red Army forces continued a 3-week attack on surrounding villages in an effort to cut off logistical support from the Mujahedeen.

Diplomatic sources here confirmed reports of a French traveller that intense fighting continued around the former summer residence town of Afghan kings, Paghman, 15 km (10 miles) north west of Kabul.

In the Logar Valley, south of the capital, Soviet forces, despite heavy bombardments, failed to capture the town of Sokhab last 12 October, said the French traveller.

But diplomats said because of the Soviet bombing offensive against guerrilla strongholds around the city, Mujahedeen activity in the city had decreased.

Diplomats said a pro-government demonstration of no more than 3,000 people unenthusiastically shouted anti-American, anti-Chinese and anti-Pakistani slogans yesterday in front of the American Embassy in the city.

But according to official Afghan radio, tens of thousands of protestors took part in the anti-imperialist demonstration.

CSO: 4600/43

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES CRUSHED--Kabul, 9 October, Bakhtar--A number of counter-revolutionaries, these obedient servants of international reaction and imperialism, who were disrupting the peaceful life of people of Hada Farm in the Nangarhar Development Project, as also in (Dar-e Nur) sub-district of (Kuz Konar) District of Nangarhar Province, and their ringleader (Abdul Fatah) were crushed by the security forces. A number of assorted weapons and ammunition were recovered from them. [Text] [LD100708 Kabul Bakhtar in English 0435 GMT 10 Oct 82]

FUEL FOR KABUL AUTHORIZED--The periodical session of the executive committee of the DRA Council of Ministers was held yesterday, chaired by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers. In this session discussions were held concerning the economic and social situation of the country and it was decided that the residents of Kabul City should be provided with fuel. In this respect specific duties were given to the Ministry of Mines and Industries for the Distribution of coal, the Ministry of Commerce for the Distribution of Liquid Gas and Kabul Municipality for the Distribution of Firewood. According to this decision Kabul Municipality has been given the duty of starting the distribution of firewood tomorrow, 28 Mezan [20 Oct], at the price of 30 Afghanis per one man [7 kg]. The distribution of 50 mans, which is equivalent to 350 kg, of firewood for each family will be started. The difference between the purchasing and selling price will be subsidized from the government budget. Also, in the coming days the distribution of liquid gas imported from the Soviet Union will start to the residents of Kabul City. [Text] [LD191730 Kabul Domestic Service in Fashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 82]

CREDENTIALS PRESENTED TO KARMAL--The Iraqi ambassador to Afghanistan has presented his credentials to President Babrak Karmal. The ambassador and President Karmal exchanged speeches in which they praised relations between the two countries. The Afghan president asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and good wishes to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, wishing them progress and prosperity. [Text] [GF231256 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Oct 82]

CSO: 4600/43

ENERGY POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANALYZED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12 Oct 82 p 7

[Text] With the recent signing of the Algerian-Italian governmental agreement, efforts to increase the value of Algerian gas have experienced noteworthy success, which is to find concrete expression in an agreement between the two enterprises: SONATRACH and the ENI [National Hydrocarbons Agency] subsidiary, SNAM [expansion unknown]. Revision of the gas price, undertaken since 1979, has required the mobilization of all the country's potential, precisely because of the many pressures of the import companies and the resulting financial and political stakes. While it is obvious that the country will be assured of greater stability in means of payments, just as Italy will have a more regular energy supply, the fact remains that the most rational use of these financial means remains a constant concern. Furthermore, the criticisms formulated by some foreign "experts" about the allegedly "high prices" or "political prices" show the profound scorn that continues to characterize the approach of some leaders of capitalist countries with respect to the revision of prices of raw materials in general.

SONATRACH experts, mainly the principal negotiators of the gas contracts, spoke on two television broadcasts (Wednesday and Friday) and before national newsmen about problems relating to the revision of the price of exported gas and other gas questions now being discussed.

In the course of the round table organized following the conclusion of the Algerian-Italian gas agreement, participants took up the different phases of the negotiations with SONATRACH partners, the results of the gas agreement recently concluded with Italy, the content of agreements made and their common features, and the importance of bringing the price of gas into line with that of crude.

SONATRACH experts also answered newsmen's questions, emphasizing that these agreements were concluded in keeping with the country's main policy guidelines.

National consumption, gas exports, the conservation policy and the effects of increasing the price of gas on the price of other basic products exported by producer countries were taken up during the debate.

With respect to the different phases in the gas battle, M. Youcef Yousfi, deputy general director of SONATRACH, justified the revision of the gas price by the high level of investments made in gas industries and by the duration of contracts.

After stating that gas prices had been kept at an excessively low level until 1973, Yousfi indicated that producer countries had asked for a gas price revision in order to index gas prices on those of oil products during an initial phase.

Readjustment of Crude Oil Price

But it was not until 1979 -- at the time of the second adjustment in crude oil prices -- that the principle of indexing the gas price on that of crude was presented as a need by exporter countries.

In Algeria, Yousfi added, SONATRACH asked its customers for a revision in the price of gas beginning at the end of 1979, in keeping with the decisions of the Central Committee and the guidelines of the chief of state.

Negotiations were difficult, he said, and sometimes took on the look of a confrontation. However, he added, thanks to Algeria's firm determination, the process of increasing the value of gas was continued and the main contracts were revised on a new basis: with Belgian DISTRIGAZ in April 1981 first, with the Gas Company of France in February 1982 and with Boston DISTRIGAS and Trunkline in August. The Algerian-Italian gas agreement signed on 27 September by the two governments is to be expressed in a contract between SONATRACH and the ENI on 20 October, Yousfi said, in order to permit startup of deliveries.

Conclusion of the agreement came with completion of the LNG 2 unit at Arzew and the Transmediterranean gas pipeline to Sicily and crossing Tunisian territory, the vice president of SONATRACH announced during the debate.

Speaking of the advantages of the Algerian-Italian gas agreement, Yousfi said that they had to be viewed not only from the standpoint of the two countries, but also with respect to Tunisia itself.

For the three countries, the agreement will have political, economic and financial effects.

For Algeria, the agreement is a decisive success in the revision of the price of gas and concretely illustrates its determination to increase the value of gas.

Yousfi said that the success belongs to everyone and that it is the result of Algeria's determination to achieve a just and legitimate claim.

Economically speaking, the agreement expands possibilities of cooperation between the three countries, he said, and consolidates the complementariness of their economic bonds.

At the same time it guarantees established markets in Italy, the agreement will provide Algeria with foreign exchange income on the order of some 10 billion dinars a year and consequently, will increase development investments.

For its part, Italy will in the long run enjoy a sure and reliable source of gas.

The arrival of Algerian gas in Italy will have a positive impact, particularly on Sicily and the southern region of the country.

According to Yousfi, Tunisia will enjoy substantial receipts thanks to the collection of gas transit duties, now estimated at 50 billion centimes a year.

Turning to the content of the contracts signed, Kateb, head of SONATRACH's marketing division, distinguished three essential factors: modification of the gas price upward; the introduction of gas price indexing on that of crude; and periodic revision of clauses in the contract in order to make it possible to adapt the price of gas and guarantee its purchasing power.

The base price is set according to prices of crude oil and oil products on the international market, Kateb said.

Indexing Principle

Indexing is based on an alignment of the price of gas with that of crude and the burdens borne by both parties were taken into consideration equally.

By way of example, a \$1.00-increase in the price of crude would be followed by a \$.17 increase in every BTU of gas.

Kateb then said that the contracts signed are strictly commercial and would give rise to no counter measure.

During the debate, Bouhafs, SONATRACH director of economic studies, spoke to emphasize that the criteria used in the contracts are objective criteria and were accepted by the main partners.

Answering certain foreign milieus that hinted at the existence of two prices: one commercial and the other political, he said that "it is their internal affair" and "there is a single price, the one set by the contract."

Bouhafs noted, however, that gas exported in the form of LNG turns out to be more expensive than gas exported by gas pipeline.

In addition to normal losses in transportable quantities and in the liquefaction process, the LNG exported entails a high transport cost, generally borne by the exporter country.

Refuting arguments to the effect that Algerian gas is expensive, Bouhafs said that the average price of Algerian gas after its revision remains, compared with prices charged elsewhere on an FOB basis or when adding the cost of transport, totally within the norm.

In other remarks, Yousfi emphasized the fact that the conclusion of these contracts corresponded to the decisions of the Central Committee and the guidelines of the president of the republic on the country's energy policy.

Revision of the contracts will result in additional foreign exchange income of 4 billion dinars in 1983 and 7 billion in 1985, he said, adding that this must not mean that we must tolerate any increase in spending. On the contrary, it is necessary to channel the surplus thus gained toward the development effort.

Yousfi further said that increasing the value of gas remains a continuing task in order to get the most out of every unit exported.

In addition, the deputy general director of SONATRACH emphasized the need to program exports while developing a hydrocarbon conservation policy, particularly of crude oil, whose reserves are limited.

With respect to national consumption of natural gas, Belguedj, head of marketing, estimated that it amounts to 5 billion cubic meters at present and will total some 9 billion by the end of the 5-year plan covering 28 governorates.

As to amounts exported, they total an estimated 30 billion cubic meters in liquefied form and 12.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas when the Trans-mediterranean gas pipeline is opened.

When asked to situate the revision of the gas price into the international context, SONATRACH officials emphasized that the choice is a substantial contribution to the process of upgrading raw materials.

This choice is also a new path in the mastery of prices by producers. After crude oil, gas has become the second-ranking raw material whose price is in the hands of the producer, they said.

Receipts in Figures

Algeria has procured additional foreign exchange income of 4 billion dinars for 1983 and 7 billion for 1985 by obtaining a revision of natural gas export contracts from its main customers.

SONATRACH officials stated that the government agreement signed on 20 October with Italy and involving the annual exportation to Italy of 12.5 billion cubic meters of gas in 25 years will bring in some 10 billion dinars (12.7 billion francs) a year to Algeria.

They also pointed out that Tunisia will receive some 500 million francs a year in transit duties for gas carried to Italy.

Henceforth, SONATRACH officials said, Algerian natural gas exports will amount to a total of 42.5 billion cubic meters a year: 30 billion cubic meters in the liquefied form (LNG) and 12.5 billion cubic meters exported to Italy through the Transmediterranean pipeline.

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TEHRAN CONCENTRATES ON CLEANING UP RESTIVE WESTERN REGION

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 1, 2

[Text] The Tehran government early this week announced it would be holding mid-term elections in liberated Kurdish areas of western Iran. Miandoab, Sardasht and Piranshahr were among the towns mentioned in the statement.

Observers saw the announcement as evidence the regime was anxious to cash in on recent military successes against Kurdish guerrillas by giving an impression that the security of the liberated areas could now be guaranteed. The government has sent in sizable forces to clear the guerrillas from some areas; but Tehran observers said reports from the region did not suggest security was sufficient yet to remove the possibility of more action by guerrillas as the weather deteriorates in the area.

The concentration of so many men and resources in the western region has combined with the efforts to make a renewed military build up on the front with Iraq to bring serious new shortages of food and other goods in Iran's cities. The regime is engaged in a full scale campaign to blunt criticism by equating hardship with the sanctity of the regime and the need to set an example to the Third World by devoting the country's resources to attainment of an ideal. (See story on later pages.)

As part of its campaign to intensify its control of the crucial western regions where opposition groups have been able to make their greatest impact in instituting violence and unrest the Tehran government has also embarked on an ambitious programme to reorganise the revolutionary institutions in the East Azarbaijan province, the Tehran daily ETELAAT has reported. According to the programme, revolutionary committees (Komitehs) will be set up in all the East Azarbaijan towns, districts and villages.

ETTELAAT quoted Nullah Abdol Hamid Banai as saying that all the existing revolutionary committees in the province were being closed down for a thorough purge of their existing staff. Banai is a mullah who has been recently appointed, with full authority, by Minister of Interior Nateq Nouri to reorganise the revolutionary committees in the province.

Banai told ETELAAT that the committees were not functioning well in this very important province. He said he was forced to set up a special court

in Tabriz to screen the personnel of the committees and revolutionary guards throughout the province to identify those who were not fully committed to Islam and to remove them.

"So far we have purged 10 percent of the existing personnel both in the committees and guards," he said. "The purged personnel were those who had no faith in Islam but had from the beginning crept into the organisation."

Banai then said that throughout the province 35 new committees have been set up and 70 reserve units were also in existence to back up operations of the ordinary units. He said the presence of the revolutionary militia would have to be strengthened in the province to fight "un-Islamic tendencies."

"We have also set up a training cadre at a specially prepared army barracks at Saidabad village near Tabriz to train militia for war with Iraq," he said. "Now we have as many as 500 Azarbaijani militia men fighting in the war against Iraq."

Banai said that the revolutionary committees would stamp out illegal and counterrevolutionary activities in the province. He said such activities as making antiregime propaganda among the populace, bootlegging, organising escape routes to smuggle people out of the country, making counterfeit documents and passports, and similar operations were rampant in East Azarbaijan. Illegally-made alcoholic drinks were not only supplied to sinners in the province but also exported to the other areas, he said. "We had to put an end to all this," he said.

However, travellers coming from Iran said that last week on several occasions Tabriz was blacked out by power cuts and during the hours of darkness numerous pictures of the young king, Ayatollah Shariat-Madari and Ahmad Madani were littered round the city. On Wednesday, came reports of scores of guards killed in fighting at Rezaiyeh.

CSO: 4600/83

MULLAHS MOUNT CAMPAIGN TO JUSTIFY HARDSHIPS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 2-4

[By a correspondent]

[Text] The Islamic regime's leaders, from Khomeini to President Khamenei and his premier and ministers, have used the occasion of recent religious sermons to tell the people that the present state of unemployment, economic hardship and lack of security was an essential prerequisite for the success of the revolution.

However, it seems the people are now less prepared to put up with such polemics; nor are they ready to keep quiet. Complaints have mounted to such an extent that the regime's newspapers have had to reflect them, albeit in a carefully handled way.

Complaints began to be heard more conspicuously when the government began officially to increase prices of the goods it either produces or imports. Locally produced cigarettes, under government monopoly, were doubled in price from 40 rials per pack to 20 for Zar and 45 rials for Azadi to 70 rials and 80 rials respectively. Prices of sugar, tea and meat at government stores were also raised.

The increase in the prices of government-supplied goods initially evoked few protests because the new prices announced were still well below the actual prices which the majority of people have to pay for these items on the black market.

But then two things happened which really did arouse feeling. One was an acute shortage of flour for bread and the other was an increase in the prices of locally-produced cigarettes on the black market. The bread shortage was a critical development. Loaves were reduced in size at first while prices remained the same.

Many people began to complain; letters were sent to newspapers and some of them were printed in KAYHAN and ETTELAAT. Then the various government spokesmen began to claim that the bread problem was of the bakers' own making. Several bakers replied by telling the people that their official flour quota

has been reduced and that they had to obtain flour from the black market to maintain supplies.

Complaints about the shortage of cigarettes were also printed in the papers. Some people said that now that the government had officially increased prices of cigarettes it should at least have them amply available. One irate smoker said that he would be happy to pay 70 rials per packet of 20 Zar because that was one-third of what he paid to buy it on the black market.

While these complaints were being made the Freedom Movement of Mehdi Bazargan released an open letter criticising the shortages and condemning the middle-men as the real culprits. The group also criticised the authorities for being indifferent to the people's welfare, riding in their bullet-proof cars and living in hiding.

This letter created a storm among the mullahs, who were already aware of the existence of popular resentment. But attention was distracted by the devastating Tehran floods, which ruined many houses and killed a number of people. Coming on top of resentment against high prices, unemployment and other hardships the flood incident led to widespread protests, so much so that the authorities had to give in to popular demand and sack the Tehran mayor.

However, the mullahs didn't seem in a mood to give in any further to popular resentment; they decided on a policy of appeasing the people, not by giving in to their demands for a better economic deal, but by encouraging the people to accept more hardship for the sake of the revolution.

The tone was set by Khomeini himself, who told a group of preachers and young mullahs last week, at the beginning of the mourning month of Moharram, that they should go to the mosques and pulpit to tell people to be prepared for hardship.

"Tell people not to complain about shortages," Khomeini told his preachers. "People must take pride in what we have achieved because now the entire world is looking at us, the superpowers are afraid of us and the deprived people look to us." He said it was obvious that if "we were to adopt a mild stand, to confine our affairs to our own country and to live in isolation, nobody would have bothered with us."

The reason for hardship was to be found in the way Iran has influenced world and superpower affairs, he said.

"In the past Iran was an insignificant place in which some people had enough to eat, but this does not mean that was good," Khomeini declared. "Tell people to be ready for hardship because there is blessing in it," Khomeini continued. "Hardship is a small price to pay for having such a glorious revolution and a war which we will win in the end."

Soon afterwards the newspapers began to pick up excerpts from Khomeini's remarks to print them all over their pages. They were also painted on walls

in the form of slogans. Preachers began their sermons by quoting Khomeini's calls.

But the public did not seem to be convinced. Although the newspapers no longer printed people's complaints, popular resentment was strong enough to reach officials. Some deputies in the parliament who were also preachers demanded speedy work on the establishment of a ministry of information and security with wide powers to crack down on rumourmongers. They contended that anybody who dared to complain of shortages was "an enemy agent." But what the preachers could not silence was expression of resentment at official inefficiency by the families of the martyrs and the poor people, who were openly complaining that despite Iran's military victories life was now worse than a year ago.

This required some new response from the regime. Mullah Karrubi, a Majlis deputy and head of the Martyrs' Foundation who had led recent attacks on former "liberal" premier Mehdi Bazargan, said in another interview that the Martyrs' Foundation had during the past six months distributed 200 million dollars a month (1.2 billion rials) among the families of martyrs. Ordinarily the mullahs would not publish such figures because they know that Iran's hard pressed population would be angry to learn that every month so much government money was being distributed among the supporters of the regime simply as donations. But now resentment appeared to be spreading to the regime's supporters it was essential to leak information to at least appease the main body of its support.

Premier Mussavi, in a short speech, said that people were not in any way concerned about shortages. "Our information is that people have no complaints about shortages because we have been able to supply ample goods," he said. "The problem is one of distribution, which we will solve in next to no time."

Khamenei, talking to a delegation from Kermanshah, said that the economy was showing sure signs of progress, though he did not elaborate. Newspapers began to write uniform comments on the sudden increase in productivity and massive government investments in industry. Central Bank Chief Mohsen Noorbakhsh announced the economy was "getting back to normal."

But, as usual, there was no hard news, no facts and no figures to support such claims. Worse still, the hard news there was was contained in the Majlis debate on introducing new income taxes. In a country where unemployment is so high and the private sector is denied any opportunity to function properly, the zeal shown now by the authorities to levy new taxes hardly backed up the government protestations about improved economic activity.

One Tehran informant told IPS that statements by officials no longer made any sense to the people. Even the speeches made by Khomeini are no longer regarded as significant. At one time Khomeini would choose every one of his words carefully, intending them to have specific meaning, but now he simply talks for the sake of talking, the informant said.

CSO: 4600/83

MINOR THEOLOGIANS CONDEMN 'FAGHIH' ELECTIONS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 4, 5

[Text] A number of theologians have warned the Khomeini regime that planned elections to choose successors to Khomeini would be regarded as an un-Islamic act if the regime insists on introducing the winners in the elections as "Paramount Faghih." (Supreme religious authority)

Informed sources inside Iran told IPS that letters, signed and stamped by a number of Mashad and Tabriz-based theologians, have been circulated throughout the country condemning the elections as a dangerous and unprecedented move. The letters have specifically said that the Paramount Theologian is a person who naturally rises to acquire such a status, and that no government-supervised elections could be regarded as a valid method for giving such a status to any person.

The letters argue that it would be up to the government to hold or not to hold elections to choose individuals for political offices. However, there had never been elections in Islam to choose a person to be acclaimed as the Paramount Theologian, in Persian called Marja' Taqlid.

In the letters it has been specified that if the elected people chose, two or three persons to succeed Khomeini in his capacity as temporal leader, such an election would be valid for those who participate in it. But through such an electoral procedure the government could not choose successors to Khomeini in his capacity as a religious "source of imitation."

Sources inside Iran told IPS that the letters bear the signatures of a number of influential mullahs in Mashad and Tabriz, but not the signatures of top theologians like Ayatollah Hassan Qomi and Ayatollah Shirazi, who are opposed to Khomeini.

However, the letters have been effective enough to force the authorities into some sort of action. Several Tehran bazaar merchants have had to go into hiding following accusations that they were circulating these letters. In Mashad revolutionary guards, headed by President Khamenei's brother, Mohammad Khamenei, raided several theological schools to search for signatories of the letters. The signatories are said to be in hiding.

Informed sources in Iran believe that the main purpose for writing the letters was to prevent two grand ayatollahs--Golpayegani and Marashi Najafi--giving their blessing to the planned elections. These two ailing grand ayatollahs have so far gone along with endorsing most of what Khomeini and his regime have done in the name of Islam. This has disheartened many pious Muslims who regard Khomeini as a fraud.

If the two grand ayatollahs remain silent over the faghīh election many serious Muslims fear they could alienate more and more people from the Shiite clergy.

CSO: 4600/83

IRAQIS ALLEGE GUARDS HAVE KILLED MORE PRISONERS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 5

[Text] Iraqi officials have alleged that more than 100 Iraqi prisoners of war were executed in Kermanshah recently in revenge for the killing of the leading ayatollah of the area with a grenade attack. The Iraqi statement said the country would never forget this brutal deed.

Earlier this month the Mojahedin-e-Khalq released photographs in Paris which they claimed were of a similar incident early this year. The photographs were said to have been taken by Iranian officers with opposition sympathies. According to the officers, revolutionary guards assembled a group of Iraqi prisoners in front of pictures of Khomeini and ordered them to chant slogans praising him. When they refused they were led away with their hands tied behind their backs and an earthmover dug a ditch, on the edge of which the prisoners were lined up. The guards then fired on them and they fell into what proved to be an open grave.

Other killings, with both bullets and bayonets, are said to have been reported by army officers, often, according to the Mojahedin reports, with the encouragement of mullahs.

CSO: 4600/83

SHIRAZ CLOSES DOWN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Londin IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 6

[Text] The Ministry of Education office in Shiraz, capital of the Fars province, has closed down all privately-run educational institutions in the city, the newspaper KAYHAN has reported. These included institutions teaching typing, secretarial work, crafts evening schools for adults and special university preparatory schools.

The Shiraz education office spokesman said that because the Islamic regime is committed to providing free educational facilities for all Iranians and because provision of free educational facilities means that all Muslims should have equal opportunities for education, the education office of Shiraz has closed down the privately run facilities to deny those people with money undue access to educational facilities.

"We believe that all of us must have the same opportunity for education," the office spokesman said, as quoted by KAYHAN. "So we believe that the existence of privately run educational facilities would mean that anybody who has money can avail himself of these facilities, while anybody who has no money will not be able to do so.

"Therefore, in the name of justice and in order not to allow rich people to enjoy educational facilities which cannot be enjoyed by the poor, we closed down these private schools. In this way we have eliminated any possibility of discrimination in availability of educational opportunities."

CSO: 4600/83

NAMIR WARNS AGAINST REPLACING KHOMEINI BY ALTERNATIVE THEOCRACY

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 7

[Text] The National Movement of Iranian Resistance (NAMIR) has warned Iranians to be on the guard against designs by outside powers to replace the Khomeini regime by another Islamic theocracy--a theocracy which would have all the reactionary and regressive vestiges of Khomeini minus its extra-territorial adventurism.

In an editorial in Nehzat, its official organ, NAMIR, which is led by former premier Shahpour Bakhtiar, argues that both the Soviet Union and the Western camp have arrived at the conclusion that the Khomeini regime has no chance of survival.

Having realised this fact both superpowers were anxious to make preparations to shape the future of Iran to their advantage. The Westerners hoped to retain the facade of the Islamic republic, while subverting it from within and putting their own trusted men in strategic positions. The Soviets would like to modify the facade, to strengthen its anti-American, anti-Israeli and anti-Saudi side, and put their own agents at the helm.

Nehzat believes that Khomeini replaced the Shah by both overt and covert assistance from the Americans. But the Soviets infiltrated the Khomeini regime, took advantage of his basically anti- Western feelings and by eliminating pro-Western elements such as Bazargan, Yazdi and Qotbzadeh managed to swing the Islamic theocracy to their side.

But the theocracy's adventurism, especially the war with Iraq, had presented the Soviets with a difficult dilemma. Now they were faced with choosing either Iraq or Khomeini.

Nehzat argues that the Soviets would choose Iraq, unless they succeed in creating problems for Khomeini. They would encourage separatist movements, and then by dealing with them, they would exact heavy concessions from Khomeini.

On the other hand the West might decide to try to help speed the downward drift of the Khomeini regime and then save it by changing its important elements and placing pro-Western moderate clergy at the helm.

Nehzat warns the West that such designs would never succeed. Within the framework of the Islamic republic it would be impossible to create a moderate hierarchy. Such a policy would have disastrous results.

It argues that Iran's salvation lies in helping the nationalist forces to attain power and to form a truly independent regime which would be capable of giving full expression to the ideals and aspirations of the Iranian people.

"We warn the people to be on guard," it says. "We warn them to take full account of the developments on the Middle East scene, to fight any designs which might replace a Soviet-backed reactionary regime with another reactionary regime which will have the same destructive nature but may be less anti-West."

Nehzat says Iranians have rejected Khomeini's regime and this means that they also reject similar reactionary, alien and foreign supported regimes.

CSO: 4600/83

ACTIVITIES OF IRANIANS-IN-EXILE REVIEWED

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 95, 26 Oct 82 p 8

[Article by Teezbin]

[Text] Britain's Home Office Minister Timothy Raison did exiled Iranians a big favour on Monday night when, interviewed in the BBC's Panorama programme, he described Khomeini's regime as "stable" even if "odious." The very idea that a regime which felt it necessary to kill thousands of its opponents without trial is seen as stable led most Britons watching to realise for the first time that it really is a fact that Iranians are, in fact, living in considerable insecurity here.

Raison said there had been no proof so far that any person expelled from Britain to Iran had been executed. Is such proof actually necessary to prevent Iranians being forced to go home to take the chance that they might be executed? Surely, since Britain is not overrun by Iranians who are exploiting the social services or committing other venal sins, the few that do not have really watertight reasons for being here can be granted dispensation until their safety is guaranteed by standards of justice that are acceptable to the British people. People's lives may be jeopardised by rash action by officials.

Raison did not explain why he felt the Tehran regime was "odious." Are we to assume that his judgment has nothing to do with the fact that the regime arbitrarily arrests its opponents and executes them without proper trial? Of course, that must be one of the main reasons he considers them odious. So why does he feel that it is perfectly all right to send Iranians back to that system, even if they cannot prove conclusively they are likely to be arrested or killed when they return?

As both the introducer of the programme and another member of parliament who appeared on it suggested, it appeared the only way an Iranian could satisfy the Home Office that he is in danger by going home and getting executed!

On Panorama we say not the face of a bureaucracy which, because of its unwieldiness and size, inevitably becomes inhuman and unjust at times, but the face of one that coldly calculates the terms on which it allows itself to indulge in humanity.

It was good to hear that the vast majority of those Iranians who have applied for asylum here have been granted it, and that to date less than a score of Iranians have been sent home. But the minister did not mention the big numbers of Iranians who have been refused visas to come here or to remain and who left of their own accord because of their failure to renew their permits to stay here. There are people who had long business and other associations with Britain, along with money invested here, who are now living in fear in Iran because they were forced to leave here after the revolution, even though they were not physically expelled. Others were not allowed even to come here in spite of those longstanding business connections. Many others only make it after much distress and hassle. And there are Iranians in Europe who refuse to come to Britain today because they say they cannot face the humiliation they encounter at the airports because they have Iranian passports.

Iranians, on the whole, however, appreciate the hospitality they have been given here. But they were happy to see the Home Office's coldly pragmatic attitude towards them highlighted so vividly by Tim Hodlin in the programme he prepared for Panorama.

And the comparison made in the programme between the treatment meted out to Iranians and that afforded to Poles was particularly valuable. After all, nobody has been executed in Poland for political crimes in recent months; thousands have been in Iran. Arguably, too, with recent bombings and the constant shooting in the streets of Iranian cities there is more turmoil on the streets of that country than there is in Poland, where "turmoil" was cited by Raison as the reason for the generosity towards Poles and not to Iranians.

But as we said, Raison, not an attractive official--certainly one who can hide his humanitarian feelings very successfully if he has them--did all those who may seek asylum in Britain in future a favour. For he drew attention to the impersonality of Britain's attitudes to foreigners when they are faced with human difficulties--like those women who were British but couldn't bring their husbands here because they were considered second class rather than full British. Now don't you think that is "odious"?

CSO: 4600/83

KHAMENEI: PEACE MISSIONS SENT ON INITIATIVE OF U.S.

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 82 pp 1, 3

[Text]

TEHRAN - "These peace missions are sent here at the instigation of the U.S.," declared the President of the Islamic Republic, Hojjatoleslam Khamenei yesterday.

The president, who was talking in a televised interview here, also said that once again the imminence of a near and ultimate victory of the Islamic Republic had impelled the supporters of Saddam Hussein to press for an end to the war through a "peace treaty."

Referring to a recent peace mission of the Islamic Conference Organization which visited Tehran Saturday, the president said: "Despite the good intentions of some members of the mission and our respect for their sincere efforts, we still think that it is U.S. influence in the region rather than genuine intentions, that generate these peace missions.

"But it has to be understood that we will never submit to these moves and efforts by the U.S., and its agent governments in the region and the United Nations just as we did not yield to various other pressures such as the imposed war, economic sanctions, and other moves."

President Khamenei, referring to a letter from the Guinean President Sekou Toure which was submitted to him by the recent ICO mission to Tehran, said that the terms proposed in the letter were contradictory to those already repeatedly set by Iran for the termination of war, adding that the Islamic Republic would only accept a truce after all its terms were fulfilled.

He later remarked that the experience of the Arab-Zionist wars had shown that a ceasefire which does not accord with Iran's terms would only serve the interests of the enemy and encourage the enemy to continue surviving as an aggressor.

Khamenei stressed that the crushing blows of the Islamic combatants had already brought the Ba'athist enemy to its knees and thus, he said, any truce would only enable it to recuperate and muster its forces while Iran remained distracted, running after this and that mission in seeking redress and acceptance of its (Iran's) terms.

In regard to another proposal of the ICO mission as to the payment of war reparations through a fund to be establish-

ed by the Islamic countries, President Khamenei stated that, as Iran has repeatedly said, the Islamic Republic would only agree to reparations from the aggressor responsible for all the damages (Iraq) and that it did not concern Iran from which source the enemy secured its funds to make the reparations payments.

Regarding another proposal of the mission for the formation of a committee to determine the aggressor, Khamenei reiterated that those who had failed to identify the aggressor over a two-year period and had overlooked the presence of Iraqi invading forces in Iranian territory would never be able to make a fair judgement of the events and, therefore, little headway would be made.

"Mr. Sekou Toure and other members of the peace mission have repeatedly named Iraq the aggressor in their conversations with us. What reason can there be then for wanting another committee?" he asked.

The president of the Islamic Republic stated that the war could only come to an end of the Iraqi regime and the person of Saddam Hussein for inflicting irreparable damage on Iran (the manner of payment of war reparations and punishment of Saddam being decided by Iran).

He concluded saying that if Iran accepted the terms the peace mission now proposed, it would not be forgiven by the people of the world and the Iranian nation.

CSO: 4600/70

MUSAVI TABRIZI ON CAUSES OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN - In an interview with the magazine, *Peyam-e Enghelab*, an organ of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the Prosecutor General of the Islamic Courts, Hojjatolislam Musavi Tabrizi shed light on the reasons for the terrorist acts carried out against the lives of ordinary committed people by anti-revolutionary groups, the MKO in particular.

He said that by committing such acts, the anti-revolutionary forces tried to "tire the people and create among them a pessimistic attitude as to the ability of the officials in maintaining security within the country."

Musavi remarked that another goal the terrorists sought through such savage activities was to frighten the people and stop them from voicing their support for the revolution and the Imam.

"It must be noted", he went on, "that it has been these same people who have inflicted the greatest of blows upon the anti-revolutionary groups and, by such attacks on their lives, the terrorists are pressing to force the people out of the arena of struggle.

"Their third motive in carrying out these inhuman terrors", he continued, "is to raise the already destroyed morale of their own members and supporters who have now come to realize that the MKO and its likes are no serious threat to the Islamic Republic.

"A fourth purpose of the MKO in particular may be to assure their foreign masters of their ability to inflict blows upon Islamic Iran.

"It must be noted that the consecutive blows the MKO have suffered at the hands of the Revolutionary Guards, especially the killing of their number-two-man, Musa Khiabani, in a raid by the Guards on what they thought was one of their most secure hide-outs, had already created severe doubts among their foreign masters as to the organization's capability in carrying out their orders.

"Thus, by such moves, the MKO is trying to convince their masters abroad that they can still be counted on in putting pressure on the Islamic government, while all their recent terrors have been carried out against the most common

supporters of the Revolution."

The Prosecutor General went on by saying that there are now reports at hand on the direct and indirect connections between the MKO heads abroad and the agents of the Ba'athist Saddam through which the former had promised "to assist the Iraqi regime in sensitive and critical times."

an example of such unholy cooperation, Musavi said, was the armed demonstration the MKO held in Tehran in which 30 Hezbollahi supporters of the Revolution were martyred.

— right at a time when the victory of the Islamic forces in the Abadan fronts was announced.

As another example of such coordination between the MKO and the infidels Ba'athist regime, the Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolutionary Courts pointed out the heinous bomb blast in downtown Tehran (Naser Khosrow Ave.) which had coincided with a victorious offensive of the Islamic forces in the Western Fronts.

CSO: 4600/70

SOVIET EMBASSY ASKED TO 'CAST LIGHT' ON SUBVERSION PLAN

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

LONDON (UPI) — The Foreign Office declined comment yesterday on a report that a KGB spy who defected to Britain revealed a Soviet plan to provoke chaos in Iran and seize power when "conditions were ripe."

The London Sunday Telegraph said the plan was given to British intelligence by Vladimir Kuzichkin, 35, who was officially a vice consul in the Soviet Embassy in Tehran before his defection.

"He has exposed the long-term subversion plan by which the Russians had hoped to generate chaos and gain power in Iran when they felt that conditions were ripe," the Telegraph reported.

Kuzichkin's defection was announced Saturday by the British Home Office.

Official sources said British MI6 intelligence is assembling a fresh picture of the KGB with information provided over a period of more than four months by Kuzichkin who they described as a "big fish" in Soviet spy service.

Kuzichkin was interviewed at a "safe house" in Sussex, England, official sources said.

In Washington, the CIA declined comment on reports

its agents assisted in the interrogation. In the past, British and American intelligence services have conducted joint interviews of key Communist defectors.

Official sources said Kuzichkin was a senior official of the KGB's directorates, which is responsible for key overseas spying operations, and that he disclosed names of agents and operational plans of the KGB.

Earlier reports said Kuzichkin, 35, was given permission to stay in Britain indefinitely but was not granted political asylum.

The sources said Kuzichkin was viewed as an important new source for details on the Soviet spy network, and that his rank of vice consul did not reflect his true position.

"This is not a run-of-the-mill defection. He is quite a big fish, and this is an important catch," said a government source.

A report in the London Daily Mail said Kuzichkin possessed a "vast dossier" on the Soviet espionage network in Western Europe and the Near East, including the names and code-names of agents and code systems.

Another unconfirmed report, in the *Guardian* newspaper, said Kuzichkin's job with the Soviet Embassy in Tehran was maintaining contact with Iran's outlawed Tudeh Communist Party.

British officials said the Soviet Embassy in London was informed of the defection, and had requested consular access to Kuzichkin. Officials said the request was relayed to Kuzichkin, but he had not replied.

The Home Office and Foreign Office refused to disclose how Kuzichkin arrived in the country or comment on a report in the *London Times* that he disappeared five months ago after abandoning his car on a Tehran street.

This story has various aspects, and before the readers may form any opinions on this vital issue, it is in the interest of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran to throw light on the matter.

-Editor

CSO: 4600/70

VARIOUS PROJECTED HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION VENTURES SUMMARIZED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Oct 82 p 7

Article: "The Minister of Housing and Reconstruction: Increased Allocations to Housing, Building and Bridge Projects in Spite of War Conditions"

Text Every day the Iraqis are realizing a new triumph against their enemies, while victory upon victory is being achieved in the field of development and the execution of development programs, and they have started reaping their rewards in the contexts of roads, housing, buildings and so forth.

In this context, Mr Muhammad Fadl Hasayn, minister of housing and redevelopment, points to the achievements that have been made in this sector, allocations to which came to 1 billion dinars last year. Of this, 863 million were allocated to road, bridge and building projects and 133 million dinars were allocated to housing projects, in addition to 100 million dinars which were allocated as capital to a number of institutions, companies and centers belonging to the ministry.

He stressed that in spite of the war conditions, the ministry's allocations this year show an increase over those for last year, because of the leadership of the party and the revolution's concern that the development programs be executed and the rates of these programs be accelerated.

The chairman of the General Road and Bridge Organization pointed out that the overall length of roads constructed between 1968 and the end of last year comes to about 18,272 kilometers, while the overall length of roads now under construction comes to 12,711 kilometers. The bridges constructed since the great 17-30 July revolution total to 195, with an overall length of 11,000 meters. Among the most prominent of these have been the 30 July and Saddam the Great Bridges. In addition, two stages of the Saddam international airport, whose construction will cost 245 million pounds, and the first phase of the great celebration arena, whose phases in total will cost 28 million dinars, have been built.

In the context of the housing sector, the president of the General Housing Organization pointed out that housing projects enjoy special attention because of their direct impact on citizens, and they receive priority in financial allocations.

He said that the number of housing units the organization is now building total 40,000, costing more than 1,469,000,000 dinars. Of these units, 8,202 will be built by the direct and prefabricated construction methods.

He stated that last year, and in the first quarter of this year, the organization has built about 6,000 housing units in the various governorates of the country.

The chairman of the General Building Organization reviewed the building and construction projects that have been carried out in this context.

He said that the organization is now carrying out 839 projects, whose construction will cost 2.4 billion dinars; 700 million dinars of this will be for health buildings, most of which were constructed in the 2 years of the war, while 29 projects are being carried out at a cost of 700 million pounds.

Sacrifices and accomplishments are continuing to be made to achieve high growth rates in the activities of other organizations subsidiary to the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, such as the National Construction Laboratory Center, which is in charge of carrying out very large tasks in the field of quality control of construction materials used in development plan projects, and the General Water and Sewer Contracting Company, which is now constructing 25 projects, the most prominent of which are the al-Karkh water project and the Saddam City sewer project.

This is the massive list of achievements which have been made in this sector, which is one of the numerous sectors that have made great achievements that prompted the enemies to fight against the revolution that created the triumphant Iraqi people.

11887
CSO: 4404/35

VARIOUS PROJECTS IN SALAH-AL-DIN GOVERNORATE REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Sep 82 p 6

Article: "Projects Carried Out in the Salah-al-Din Governorate Have Cost 250 Million Dinars"

Text The cost of the projects constructed in the Salah-al-Din Governorate in the 2 years of the war came to more than 250 million dinars.

The governorate's irrigation department has carried out projects costing 19 million dinars. These include the al-'Awjah, al-'Ali and al-Khalij irrigation projects, Tigris and al-Ishaqi irrigation, and the other small projects. Meanwhile, the local administration has built plants to construct tile, mosaic and concrete construction materials, 25 elementary and secondary schools, a boarding section for the industrial preparatory school, 36 residential apartments with a house, some of which have been distributed to employees and people with limited incomes, while other houses have gone to people belonging to the domestic security forces and government bureaus in a number of districts and subdistricts, a brick plant in Samarra', and a large brick plant in Takrit.

The governorate's department of roads has built and paved seven main roads and has constructed a number of bridges and dams, including the Tuz and Takrit bridges. Meanwhile, the road authority has constructed a total of 129 kilometers of roads, including a main rural road 55 kilometers long costing 3.5 million dinars, and it has erected 99 culverts and nine bridges over agricultural lands in the al-'Alam district and built the Takrit-Kirkuk road via al-Fathah.

The costs of the governorate's municipality department projects came to 29 million dinars. These included the paving of new residential areas, the construction of modern markets in a number of districts and halls, along with furniture for them, for a number of mosques, and the construction of parks and esplanades. The governorate's building department has carried out projects costing 45 million dinars which include buildings for the headquarters of the youth, women's, workers' and students' federations, local vanguard and model youth committees, security departments, the police, the party, the People's Army, a 400-bed hospital and an emergency hospital.

The cost of the water and sewer projects came to 53 million dinars. These included the installation of stations to pump clean water in Takrit and al-Dur, unprocessed water projects in Takrit, Samarra' and Bayji, and the expansion of water distribution systems in various areas of the governorate.

The governorate's department of religious endowments has repaired all the major and minor mosques and has built a big mosque in al-'Awjah, another one in Takrit, and a furnished hall for religious occasions.

In the 2 years of the war, the department of municipalities in the governorate distributed 12,000 plots of land for housing and prepared 2,000 other plots for distribution.

11887
CSO: 4404/35

HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PROMISES TO REWARD KURDS FOR SUPPORT

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Oct 82 p 7

Article: "Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih Praises Our Kurdish People's Brave Stand"

Excerpt Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the regional command and secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's northern organization office, conveyed greetings and salutations from the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, to the masses of al-Sadiq District in Irbil Governorate.

In a statement he made at the mass gathering held before the district administration building, which was attended by Mr Yahya al-Jaff, the governor of Irbil, our comrades the secretary and members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Irbil branch, officials, and eminent men of religion, he saluted our Kurdish people's brave stand, their high national spirit and their genuine Iraqi soul, which arises from conscious identification with the soil of the nation and the desire to defend it.

Our comrade member of the party regional command said, "Today we are standing up to a new round of aggressive Iranian attacks on our eastern borders and to all the enemies of our people lying behind it in the form of imperialists, Zionists, traitors, agents and everyone who does not wish well of our revolution and its continued triumphant march."

Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih praised the aware response of the masses in the region to the general amnesty decrees and said, "This response comes about as a truthful expression of the genuine Iraqi stand and the desire to mobilize all powers and resources in defense of the Iraq of the giant 17 July revolution, under the command of the fighting president Saddam Husayn."

He reviewed the progress of the March declaration, the autonomy law, the emergence of the constitutional institutions in the autonomy area and their exercise of their powers. He said, "The attainment of autonomy has come about as a reflection of the principles and ideas of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its belief that all ethnic groups coexisting in the country must enjoy all their legitimate national rights in the context of the united nation."

He went on, "Proceeding from this state of affairs, the revolution and its command, headed by President Saddam Husayn, has decided to proceed with autonomy along the road to growth and development and to bring it to the most advanced forms of application."

Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih compared the advanced condition of our Kurdish people with the sufferings the Kurdish people are going through in Iran, in the form of oppression and racist tyranny, at the hands of the executioner Khomeyni. He said, "Since this is the actual condition of the Kurdish people in Iran, how can this senile idiot and his regime claim to be defending the Kurds of Iraq, when they are a thousand times better off?"

The chairman of the people's assembly in the district then made a statement for the mass organizations in which he reiterated the promise to place every effort at the service of the struggle, to provide it with reserves of fighting men, and to consolidate the unity of national ranks.

11887
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PROGRESS OF LIGHT INDUSTRY FIRM EXTOLLED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Oct 82 p 9

Article by Faryal Jasim: "The Light Industries Company: Increased Production during 2 Years of War"

Text The light industries company is one of the important institutions in the country. It provides the citizens' requirements for refrigerators, heaters, gas stoves and freezers.

In order to acquaint the citizen with our domestic output, which has now reached advanced stages, we made this brief excursion through the Light Industries Company, meeting with Mr Razzaq Hasan al-Janabi, director general of the company, who talked to us about the development stages the company has gone through. He said:

"In the past our company produced oil and gas heaters and stoves as well, but not at an ambitious level. Following the great 17-30 July revolution, the revolution's concern was very influential in getting this company to occupy a distinguished position in production. As a result of concentrated observations we received from citizens, new models were introduced into our manufactures; for example, we introduced new models of oil furnaces, with a productive capacity of 100,000 heaters.

"We introduced modern models of gas stoves with attractive colors. The employees exerted exceptional efforts to increase productive capacity so that the production would be in accordance with the stipulated plan of execution (130,000 stoves of various types). The productive capacity in 1983 will be 150,000 stoves. The company is now setting up transmission belts to reduce manpower and avoid waste in production."

In regard to the refrigerators, Mr Razzaq Hasan said, "New types of refrigerators of various sizes have been designed. As part of the 1982 plan, the productive capacity will be 150,000 refrigerators of various sizes, and in 1983 the productive capacity will be 180,000 refrigerators. Recently automatic lines were installed to manufacture metal refrigerator frames. These lines will reduce manpower as well as improving product quality. and the capacity of the lines will be 250,000 refrigerator frames per shift. In addition to that, we now have automatic modern dying vats with a capacity of a quarter of a million refrigerators per shift. The transmission belts we spoke about will contribute effectively

in drawing the frames along the ground without inflicting damage on production. These lines will be put into operation in the second quarter of 1982."

Concerning the new projects, the director general said, "Studies are underway to develop the plants to achieve two basic goals, the first to increase productive capacity and the second to improve production quality. We have made contracts with some foreign companies to improve the refrigerator plants and increase the workers' technical expertise by getting them in contact with foreign specialists."

As regards freezers, the director general of the company said, "In response to citizens' complaints, among them the fact that the freezers are heavy, in addition to other technical problems, concentration has been put on the production of new freezers with high technical specifications that are on a par with foreign products. Freezer weight has been taken into consideration, since it will be light and free of technical problems. It will differ totally from the previous freezers. This product will be offered to citizens next month and its productive capacity in 1983 will be 120,000 freezers. All of our products, especially those for the winter, will soon be available to the citizens."

The director added, "In spite of the war conditions, production rates are increasing every day and have started to rise with the efforts of all the people working in the company. There are hands that build and hands that fight the Iranian regime so that it will recognize all our rights. This production should be considered a modest gift which we are offering the commander of victory, the man beloved of the millions, the president and commander Saddam Husayn, and his heroic soldiers.

"The productive capacity has risen in the 2 years of the war above its level in the days of peace. In 1979 production came to 102,221 refrigerators, 7,095 freezers and 91,071 stoves. This production rose in the following year, coming to 115,750 refrigerators, 10,415 freezers and 96,108 stoves, and then last year it came to 122,930 refrigerators, 13,655 freezers and 108 stoves [sic]. The production rate will reach 100 percent of the production plan. The company is continuing its efforts to increase production and improve the quality of production, in service to our beloved country."

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YOSEF BURG SPEAKS ON OWN LIFE, CURRENT ISSUES

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 14 Sep 82 pp 22-27

[Interview with Interior and Police Minister Yosef Burg by Nicolas Suescun, in Bogota; date not specified]

[Text] "Israel deserves the Nobel Peace Prize." This ironic statement was made to CROMOS in Bogota by one of his country's leading politicians, the minister of interior and religious affairs, in charge of the police and the ecology, a rabbi and philosopher. Burg described his interesting life, and claimed that Israel is the only factor unifying the divided Arabs, that the Israelis do want autonomy for their Palestinians and that peace in the Middle East does not depend on Arabs and Israelis, but rather on the great powers.

He arrived in Barranquilla, traveled to Bogota, met with the minister of government (his equivalent in Colombia) and the minister of foreign affairs, held a press conference and several interviews for television, and subsequently engaged in a dialog alone with CROMOS. He remained almost motionless, his "kipa" enhancing the breadth of his thinker's forehead, with his plump hands on Ambassador Aron's desk, occasionally rising to accentuate the intellectual sparks from his eyes, ready to light up at anything that makes him laugh or that he must contradict or emphasize in restrained terms, filled with quotes and anecdotes from 73 years of life.

While he was talking, the echoes of Menachem Begin's violent speech to the Knesset, where he was to obtain a comfortable vote of confidence, were reverberating; the Israeli Army was destroying another Soviet-made Syrian missile in the Bekaa Valley; and the Arabs were debating their statement on peace, which implicitly recognized Israel in exchange for the creation of a Palestinian state (immediately thereafter canceling the "implicit recognition" which is so annoying to the Israeli leaders).

But, to go to the heart of the matter, we began by asking him to tell us the story of his life which, like that of nearly all Israelis, is a long series of losses, suffering and overcoming, something that explains better than anything the situation of a country which is not always well understood.

Philosopher, Mathematician and Rabbi

After warning that talking about himself is a favorite topic for anyone, and that there is a danger that he may never stop, he begins to speak plainly:

"I am Yosef Burg. I was born in 1909, in Dresden, the famous city which was bombed far more than Beirut. I studied philosophy, history, psychology and some Semitic languages at the University of Berlin. I finished my academic studies at the University of Leipzig, now in East Germany, the oldest university in Germany. I completed my studies in 1933, with a dissertation on logistics, that is, mathematical philosophy. I finished my examinations to qualify as a teacher in universities the next year, also in Leipzig.

"I completed my rabbinical studies in 1939, in Berlin. I took part in the Zionist youth movement and the leadership of the German Zionist movement. In 1939, I received a certificate as a researcher at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which enabled me to leave Germany; but, during the same year, I was sent to Europe again by my organization, and between 1939 and 1940 I was at Geneva, working for the Jewish emigration from Germany. When the Maginot Line fell on 10 May 1940, and after Italy entered the war, believing that it was becoming allied with the winner, it no longer made sense to continue working in Geneva to procure the emigration of Jews from Germany, because the Mediterranean was closed. Then I decided to return home.

The Return 'Home'

"I took a shortcut by way of Barcelona, Madrid, Badajoz and Lisbon, where I waited 3 weeks for a steamship. I already had a ticket for a Japanese one, but when Tel Aviv was bombed the steamship received orders not to return to Japan through the Suez Canal, but rather through the Panama Canal. I had to change plans, and found a Portuguese steamship that was sailing from Lisbon to Lourenco Marques. It was my hope that, since I was on the eastern coast of Africa, it would be easier to reach what was then known as Palestine via the Suez Canal. I waited 7 weeks in Lourenco Marques, and learned to speak Portuguese. ('Falo portugues, nao faz mal, abrigado' [I speak Portuguese, it doesn't matter, thanks]). Then, in early November or December, I found a plane which took me by way of Mombasa, Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Entebbe, Khartoum and Cairo, where I took a hydroplane which brought me to Lake Tiberias.

"For 5 years, I was a high-school teacher in the oldest high school in Palestine. But now I shall stop, to talk about my better half. If I talk about myself, I must talk about my wife. She was born in Hebron (now on the Western Bank), to a family which had lived there for seven generations. Her father was chief rabbi until the pogrom of 1929, when dozens of Jews were assassinated there by the Arabs during August. They killed my wife's brother, and five members of the family. And other Arabs saved her father, my wife, her sisters and a brother. One brother saved by the Arabs, and another assassinated by them! This proves that human feeling also prevails during cruel times of bloodshed.

"I was married, and have three children and seven grandchildren. One daughter is married and lives on a kibbutz located about 5 kilometers from the Jordan River. The other one is married to a doctor; and my son was an officer in the paratrooper corps. He is partially disabled because of a fall 8 years ago.

His Political Career

"I taught in Tel Aviv until 1946, and in that year I returned to Europe; at the Paris headquarters, I took part in the relief and rehabilitation of refugees from the concentration camps. I organized their education, particularly the religious education, and then we took them to Israel. I was elected to the first Knesset in January 1949. From the first Knesset to the latest one, which is the twelfth, there have been only three members who have been in all of them: One is Prime Minister Begin, another is I myself and the third is an Arab Communist; an Arab Communist who has been in our parliament since the country was founded!"

[Question] An Arab?

[Answer] Yes, another great reflection of our democracy. From 1949 to 1951, I was deputy president of the Knesset; from 1951 to 1952, I was public health minister; from 1952 to 1958, I was minister of post and telecommunications; from 1959 to 1970, I was minister of social welfare; and since the latter year I have been minister of interior, who now also directs the police and the ecology. In addition, last year I was named minister of religious affairs. Three years ago, our prime minister suggested that I become chairman of our ministerial committee for negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. In that capacity, I met with President Carter, with several foreign ministers, with Kissinger and Muskie, and with American plenipotentiaries, such as Bob Strauss, Sol Linowitz and Fairbanks. I had the pleasure of meeting Alexander Haig when he visited our country, and now I am on a short visit to Colombia, for the second time. In 1966, I was special representative at the inauguration of President Carlos Lleras Restrepo.

As is evident, for 73 years and 70 countries that I have visited, this was a rather brief account.

'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity'

[Question] One question, out of curiosity: When you were studying in Germany, did you know Gershom Sholem, the expert on the Cabala, the author Elias Canetti or the critic Walter Benjamin, all of whom are Jews and writers educated in the German world?

[Answer] Benjamin committed suicide. He was a good friend. I did not know Canetti. I have sat with Sholem for the past 10 years on the Council of the Leo Beck Institute (an institution engaged in disseminating and publishing the contributions of German Jews to Western culture). I had not known Sholem earlier, owing to the difference in our ages. He was 18 years older than I. I met him in recent years, as I did Martin Buber....no, I knew Buber personally in 1934. I wanted to cooperate with him on Hebrew education for adults, when Hitler had already come to power.

I shall tell you an interesting anecdote: Three years ago, I went to Cairo for the first time, for the peace negotiations. There, I met the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, a very cultured man who attended the Sorbonne and who is a law professor. He is a Coptic Christian with a Jewish wife. We discussed our spiritual cosmos, and how Egypt and Israel could be united. At the

beginning of the conversation, he said to me: "Dr Burg, we know who you are. You are from the school of thought of Martin Buber and Leo Beck." (Beck was a famous rabbi who survived the concentration camp at Teresienstadt, where my mother died.) He then wanted to quote something from Buber, to prove to me that he knew who he was. He began the quotation, and I continued it. The slogan of the French Revolution was "liberty, equality, fraternity." The comment was based on it. "Liberty came to the West, and equality to the East, and now we need fraternity to unite them again."

The Current Situation

[Question] As a member of the National Religious Party, what is your political position?

[Answer] We simply believe more in the ideas of Moses than in those of Marx. We believe that the "ethos" of our prophets, and their idea of justice, is a good foundation for building a democratic, creative and just society. We are in the center, which according to my philosophy does not mean "mediocre" or "middle-of-the-road," but rather "moderate." Therefore, my party is always in favor of the greatest national coalition possible. I have served under all our prime ministers, from Ben Gurion to Golda Meir and Begin.

[Question] The Israeli attack on Beirut has evoked the angriest protests against Israel. Do you find that the Colombians share that criticism?

[Answer] I believe that the 3 days I have spent here are enough to write a book, but not sufficient to give you an honest reply. I would like to tell you that the nature of the Colombians seems extroverted, friendly and humane. And I have sensed sympathy among the taxi drivers and in the shops, among everyone that I have come across.

[Question] Do you think that the latest political and diplomatic developments (such as the hostile speeches by Reagan and Begin, and the meeting of the Arab League) have dismantled the Camp David peace treaties, and precluded the possibility of a Palestinian autonomy that would be acceptable at least to Israel?

[Answer] I don't yet know the text of Begin's speech, so I can only affirm and repeat that, based upon the Israeli Government's interpretation of Reagan's remarks, they are not in keeping with the spirit of Camp David, but rather opposed to it. In our view, they do not constitute a good foundation for the resumption of the talks on autonomy. I can say this with a certain amount of authority, since I have chaired the committee which is responsible for 3 years.

Jordan, the Palestinian Country?

[Question] But isn't the American proposal in keeping with the position of General Sharon, for example, who claims that Jordan is the country of the Palestinians?

[Answer] In the first place, I want to tell you that Ambassador Arens who, a few days ago, went to Israel with Casper Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defense, stated that he was shocked by Reagan's speech. And there are rumors that the Saudi Arabians

and Jordan were informed and consulted about its content, whereas it took Israel by surprise. They didn't ask us anything about something which is related to our survival. You can be the judge.

Secondly, I have not always accepted the notion that Jordan is the country of the Palestinians; because it is a state with a Palestinian majority, but not the solution to the problem. I don't think that there is any relationship between eastern Jordan and what is happening on the West Bank. There is only an average of about 80 kilometers or less between Jordan and the Mediterranean, and this is too small a territory to contain two states; this is why we have proposed the autonomy. We don't want to become involved nor to intervene in the daily life of the Arabs; and hence we are willing to allow them to have a government of their own and the maximum degree of self-administration, but without a military presence, because that would jeopardize our lives.

Palestinian State or Autonomy?

[Question] That is tantamount to saying that the Palestinians are not entitled to a state of their own.

[Answer] No, we do not accept that interpretation, because, first, the Palestinian state was never proposed by Hussein (whom Reagan has now named as the top-ranking authority and absolute judge). If this is such a vital matter, why didn't he do anything about it from 1949 to 1967, during 19 years of total control? He didn't sacrifice anything to create a Palestinian state, because he didn't want it. This means that he had more Palestinians than he could withstand; and I see no reason why we have to do what he failed to do. So, there are many Palestinians in Jordan and other countries, and we have 1.5 million, to whom we have promised more than their fellow Arabs have: autonomy.

[Question] As minister of interior, are they dependent on you?

[Answer] No, my authority covers Israel's traditional borders. According to the Geneva accords, the military government is the one responsible. But the Ministry of Interior is giving expert, professional advice to the region. It is the one with the most Arab officials, because the Army wants to intervene as little as possible. The other ministries also have specialized advisers available.

The Diaspora

[Question] Finally, so that our readers may understand the background of the Israeli position, I would like you to explain to them why, when you emigrated from Europe to Israel, you said that you "were returning home"?

[Answer] Never in history has a Palestinian state existed, apart from those mentioned in the Bible, which were at their height during the time of David and Solomon. One can read their entire history in the Old Testament. Later, the Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Turks and British arrived. We are Jews, and our temple was destroyed in the year 70 A.D. Then we became scattered throughout the entire world. We experienced the Diaspora, but we never lost hope of returning home. In our prayers, we look toward Jerusalem, and we pray for it. They are the same prayers

that are said by the Jews in Moscow, New Zealand, New York or Morocco. I shall tell you another anecdote. About 2 years ago, I was in Washington. At Blair House we had a discussion with General Ali and the Americans. The general asked me: "Dr Burg, Jersualem is a holy city for the monotheistic religions. Why does it have to be a political city as well?" I replied: "General Ali, I know that you are a devout Muslim, and you know that I am a devout Jew. This afternoon, we shall both say our prayers: you looking toward Mecca, and I toward Jerusalem. That is the only difference."

The Two Leagues

You have also asked me whether there can be peace in the Middle East. I shall say to you that I cannot tell you yes or no. I shall explain. In the first place, I must tell you that Israel should receive the Nobel Peace Prize, because we are unifying the Arab world. Without us, they would be fighting one another, because there is hatred among them. Qadhafi does not like Egypt, and vice versa. King Hussein does not like the Syrians, and vice versa. The Syrians and the Iraqis are not talking to one another. They all have mutual hatred, but they are united by the hatred for us.

The second point is that, in the world, as in sports, there are two leagues, the national and the international. All of us in the Middle East, Egypt, Syria, Israel, etc., are in the national one. Only the United States and the USSR are in the international one. As Kipling said of the East and West, "never the twain shall meet." I have always said that we have the holy places and the Arabs have the "oily" places; and we live in a world wherein oil is more important than all the French perfume in the world. Its odor is more appealing to certain nations and economies, and that is our problem. It means that they interfere in our affairs. Arafat's money and weapons were Russian: the missiles, rifles, guns and tanks, all Russian.

In other words, the international league interferes in ours. If they decide to make peace, we shall live in peace. It is a clearcut response, although not very encouraging; but that's the way it is. Our situation depends on the world situation.

2909

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TAKEOVER OF WEST BANK LANDS DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 82 p 7

Article by Tzvi Bar'el: "Land, My Land"

Text Like a portion of quivering brains on a plate, this is how the map of the territories captured by Israel on the West Bank looks. The convoluted lines, the strange looking enclaves, are the result of air photographs mounted on the map. These are not mere pictures. They are pictures of land defined as stony land and pasture land. According to the Turkish law they can come under the heading of "Sultan's lands." Today we call them state land.

In a study recently done by Dr Meron Benvenisti for NYU, it is stated that "at least 55 to 60 percent of the land on the West Bank can be defined as state land, or land the state can claim without this formal designation."

Thus, out of 5.8 million dunams, approximately 3.2 dunams are included in this design of convoluted lines and enclaves.

Benvenisti's map actually points out to a pattern. No longer the Zionist dream of "one dunam at a time." No longer seizing land for security reasons. Certainly no longer a secret settlement here or there. This is rather a master plan for creating large Jewish or Jewish settlement, or at least to ensure Jewish possession of land in order to provide a base for future settlement.

The residents who are to settle in these areas have not been found so far. For several years government circles have been referring to 20-22,000 Jewish residents on the West Bank. Indeed, as long as they spoke about "quasi pioneering" settlement in remote places like Aloney Moreh, too far and dangerous to commute to Jewish places of work, there were not too many Jews willing to settle. But once they changed their tune and stopped talking about security settlement a la Degania where Jews would bodily stop Arab invasion, new faces began to show up on the West Bank. Someone finally realized that nationalistic slogans won't do. Here money talks. Instead of "one dunam at a time" they offer a private home without a down payment, a low rent apartment, an opportunity to make a profit on one's present home. Such slogans have a clear message.

Legal Backing

When it comes to large settlements, city planning, planned communities the planning is for long-range projects of high quality living. No longer make-shift homes but rather large apartments, gardens, lawns, different kinds of schools and industrial zones. When men of vision like Sharon and Matityahu Drobles, chairman of the settlement division of the Zionist Histadrut, head the settlement operation on the West Bank, they keep insisting that there is more demand for apartments than they are able to provide. "It is an intolerable situation," they say, "to have Jews who want to live on the West Bank and not have apartments for them."

Indeed, by promising attractive living conditions and settling near Israel's big cities the government has brought about a change in the rate of Israelis who are willing to live on the West Bank. When you build quality dwellings you need a lot of space, and when you look for a Jewish flooding you need even more. Thus the area of the planned city Ariel in Samaria is larger than the area of Nablus, the population of which is five or six times larger from the final projection of the population of Ariel.

But the seizure of large tracts of land that in recent weeks has reached tens of thousands of dunams (some 40,000 dunams in the Hebron area alone and an additional 15,000 dunams in the Tul Qarm area) is intended to serve another purpose as well, namely, reach the point where the government will be able to reject any demand for autonomy for the territories, since there will not be any territories to be made autonomous. When more than half of the land is registered in the name of the state a new situation will come about in which anyone who will ask the government to give autonomy to the territories will be told that the state owns those territories. Does anyone expect the state to give up its property? The land will no longer be considered occupied, a mere bargaining card in political negotiations. While the prime minister says that Judea and Samaria belong to the Jewish people forever, the seizing of land will provide the legal basis for this assertion and will block any political negotiations.

The Second Half

And what about the other half, those lands that are not defined as state lands? Will it be possible to talk about geographical autonomy there? Here the solution is found in the maps defining the urban and rural Arab areas. According to those maps, over 80 percent of the Arab rural area are under prohibition of new construction. This prohibition comes under different headings. In the colorful map accompanying the list of government instructions, the rural zone is divided into agricultural land, nature preserves, future planning areas, special areas and construction areas. Except for the latter, all the other are under strict prohibition of new construction, unless the new construction meets the narrow criteria of the planning and construction committee of the civilian administration.

Through these restrictions the government achieves two goals:

A significant reduction of building areas, especially in rural zones, thus causing Arabs without homes to move from place to place or leave the West Bank.

Keeping the option of claiming those areas in the future. Thus, for example, the definition of "land earmarked for development" and "special land" is land "the future of which will be decided by the board of planning and construction."

This, then, is the answer in regard to the other half. Someone does take care of it. The stony land and the pasture land that show on the map as convoluted lines are the Israeli answer to the frozen autonomy talks. At the present rate of the talks, one may wonder if and when they are resumed whether there will be anything to talk about.

9565
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GALILEE ARAB VIEWS ON WAR DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Sep 82 p 22

Article by Dani Tzidqoni: "'Arafat Would Have Gotten Most of the Vote; The Predicament of Galilee Arabs Has Increased Since the IDF Fought Their Relatives in Lebanon'}

Text Most of Israel's Arabs live in the Galilee, an area where they constitute a majority, and which was meant to be freed from the threat of the PLO through the Peace for Galilee campaign. In Bir Maqsur, a Bedouin settlement in the Bet Netofa valley whose sons serve in the army, the campaign is supported. The Maronites in Gush Halav are also happy with it, but most of the Galilee Arabs strongly object to it.

Unlike the Muslim Triangle in the northern West Bank, or the Bedouin Negev, and not considering the cities with mixed Arab population, the Galilee is the mixed area of Muslims, various Christian sects and Druze (some of the latter consider themselves Arabs). The pain of Galilee Arabs because of what Israel has done to the Palestinians in Lebanon is greater than that of any other Arab population in Israel. "Unlike in past wars," says Arab journalist 'Atallah Mansur from Yafiyeh, "this time Israel does not only fight the Arabs but also our cousins and our brothers." 'Atallah is a Christian. Among the Palestinians in Lebanon there are Christians who had left the Galilee in 1948. It turns out that the Christians were not among the main victims of the war, since they live in Dabayah and Jisr al-Pasha camps in Beirut, and early in the war came under Phalangist rule. 'Atallah believes that most Galilee Arabs are in favor of self-determination for the Palestinians. The question is how to go about getting it and who represents the Palestinians. He believes that if all Arabs inside and outside Israel were to vote today for their leader, 'Arafat would get a larger majority than Begin has gotten from the Israeli voters. The Palestinians' stand in Lebanon, he says, is a source of pride for every Palestinian.

As in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, I found out that the Galilee Arabs are angry at the Arab states for abandoning the Palestinians in Lebanon. "All the Arabs are whores," someone tells me. The Soviets are also scorned and criticized for not lifting a finger on behalf of the Palestinians after they supported the latter in their struggle against Israel and provided them with weapons.

RAKAH activists in Nazareth, the largest Arab concentration in Israel, blame Sarkis for the Soviet fiasco in Lebanon, since he did not turn to them for help and refused it when it was offered. During the first days of the war RAKAH's Arab language paper AL-ITTIHAD came out with a big letter headline, "The Soviets Are Threatening Israel." It expressed the wishes of the editors rather than a political fact. The myth of Soviet support was smashed against the rocks of reality, that did not favor the communists. Hence, when a demonstration was announced in Nazareth to protest the war, only a few thousand showed up.

The Arab centers of the Zionist parties in the Galilee did not show a great deal of activity. Mansur says that except for some organizing before the elections, the Zionist parties do not exist in the Arab community.

The Arab community is critical of the conduct of the PLO and its overall policy in Lebanon. Some maintain that the willingness of the PLO to negotiate with Israel, as expressed by some of the more moderate elements in the organization, should have been more explicit, and that the PLO should not interfere in the internal affairs of Lebanon. But they add that the Palestinians have never been able to act freely on their own behalf since they always depend on others in the Arab world who, as it is well known, have other interests besides the Palestinian question.

Dr Rashid Salim, a 45-year-old Christian physician, native of the village of Iblin, clearly remembers how he fled his village and went to Lebanon during the War of Independence. While he and other members of his family hid in a valley on the way to Lebanon with thousands of Arab refugees, they were shocked by the sight of all those refugees and decided to return to their village. They stayed for several months with Bedouin friends and then returned home. Dr Salim became an Israeli citizen instead of an Arab refugee. He clearly remembers the occupation of his village and the attitude of the Israeli occupation force toward the villagers during the early years of the state. He is a former member of RAKAH, hence a moderate.

Israeli Arabs, says Dr Salim, are part of the Palestinian people at the same time that they are part of Israel, and they have to prove they are an inseparable part of the state. The way to do it is mutual respect between the two people and an alliance with progressive Jewish elements like SHELI, Yosi Sarid of the Alignment and others. Dr Salim is one of the founders of a new Arab group, the Progressive Movement, now taking its first steps in Arab Israeli political life. The founders are professionals, but some of them come from other social groups and from all sects. Last month the group had its first convention attended by 500 people. The style was quite different from RAKAH. Dr Salim hopes that in the next election to the Knesset his party will be properly represented. This will be the first Arab party in the history of the Knesset that will faithfully represent Israeli Arabs and will not be anti-Zionist, he explains. The war makes him angry at the government and at those Jews who back the government on the war. He had never believed that the government will do in Lebanon what the Germans did to the Jews in Europe.

Math teacher Habib Khuri, native of Nazareth, is not an Israeli citizen. His father was born in the Dominican Republic, and Khuri has inherited his citizenship. When he asked for an Israeli passport he was told he could not get one because of his Dominican citizenship. When he argued that many Jews have dual citizenship he was told that only those who served in the army can have it, and so he, as an Arab, could not have it. Khuri believes that the solution to the Palestinian problem depends on Israel who should open negotiations not only with the Arabs of the territories but also with the PLO. Removing the PLO from Beirut without an agreement is no solution, he says, as many Israelis maintain.

About 2500 members of the Asadi families are living in Lebanon as refugees. They escaped from their village on the Acre-Safed road in 1948. Many live in the 'Ayn Hulwah camp, and have been out of touch. In Dayr al-Asad they do not object in principle to one army fighting another, but they are against bombing civilian populations.

Shefar'am has a mixed Arab population that can serve as an example to the Lebanese for peaceful Muslim-Christian-Druze coexistence. Muslim Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Husayn wonders whether he should talk to me. He was recently visited by a reporter from YOMAN HASHAVU'A (Likud) who, he says, has attributed to him things he did not say. After much hesitation he agrees to talk to me. He tells me about the protest of the heads of Arab councils against the war and his support of the Peace Now movement. He says that the Arab leadership should not cross the red line in its protest and activities, since the authorities may conclude they are part of the PLO, which is not true. Husayn does not belong to any party and can be defined as moderate and realistic. He says he has not been pressured by his people to be more actively involved in working against the war, nor was he pressured by the government to refrain from protesting. He would very much like to act as a liaison between Israel and its adversaries--the Arab states and the PLO. He has offered to do it, but has not yet received an answer. There are 22,000 residents in Shefar'am, 41 percent of whom are Muslim, 39 percent Christian and the rest Druze. They have been successful in living together. On the 6th of each month their leaders get together for a forum in which they discuss their common problems and resolve them. Husayn would like to tell the Lebanese about their success.

Contractor Elias Nagib, a 36-year-old Christian, says that he does not have time to listen to the news. He found out about Bashir Jumayyil election to the presidency only 2 days after the election. In talking about the activities of the PLO against the Christians in Lebanon he suggests that I look into the activities of the Christians themselves that had led to it. It turns out the Galilee Christians do not identify, as we do, with the Christians of Lebanon. They speak of "Phalangists" and do not use the word Christians in relation to our old and new allies in Lebanon. The Arab Christians in the Galilee, they maintain, are Palestinians first. This may explain the lack of relations between the Greek Orthodox Major Haddad and his coreligionists in the Galilee.

Badi Salman has served in the minorities unit of the IMF. If he had been mobilized he would have gone to fight in Lebanon, but he is glad he was not since he objects to the war. He is not represented by Knesset Member (Druze) Nasr al-Din. Badi fought in the Six-Day War and in the Yom Kippur War. He suggests that Israel withdraw from Lebanon, and that Israel should have not gone into Lebanon in the first place. The Likud government, he points out, supports the Christians more than it supports the Druze, which makes him even more against "the damage done by the war in Lebanon."

Grandmother Amana has three brothers and one sister in Lebanon. She saw one of them back in 1973 when he came to visit by way of Jordan. Amana, age 65, escaped the refugee fate in 1948 when she went with her husband to Nazareth. In her opinion "the Palestinians want to return to their land and this is their right, while Israel is destroying them." Amana misses the life before 1948. Her son, Muhammad, a graduate of Haifa University, explains that Israeli Arabs are caught in a bind. Since his people are being killed he cannot stand listening to the news or buy a newspaper. His brother, Afif, also a graduate of Haifa University (philosophy and Middle East), says he is against the use of violence. But his objection is selective. Begin cannot prove to him, he says, that the war is the result of Palestinian activities, since it was the carrying out of an American plan to destroy the PLO as a political and military body. Afif, age 27, who is against violence, explains that in Ma'ilot and the Coastal road the terrorists were non-violent. They only asked for the release of the security prisoners and when they were turned down they attacked. In Munich the Germans, rather than the Palestinians, were responsible for the murder of the athletes. He argues that the Israeli media does not show the Palestinians as human beings. For instance, the media did not play up the good treatment the captured Israeli pilot, Ahi'az, received from the terrorists. It is hard to say that Afif, who seems to stand left of RAKAH, can participate in a Jewish-Arab dialogue on the difficult question of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The teacher from the village of Qabul asks me not to mention his name. The fear of the Shin Bet and the Israeli authorities is something one cannot ignore in the Galilee. This teacher defines himself as the counterpart of the alienated Jew in one of the Y. D. Berkowitz's stories. He says if the war ends with a Palestinian state in the territories, the problem of the Palestinians in Israel will continue as long as the injustice committed against them is not remedied, such as the expropriation of their land. How can they build Jewish security outpost around every Arab village on land belonging to that village, he asks. It is not only unjust but also insulting, especially in a state where all are considered equal.

The war in Lebanon has raised the Palestinian question and has made us forget that inside Israel there is another Palestinian question, for which a solution does not seem to loom on the horizon.

9565
CSO: 4423/15

PROPOSAL MADE TO SETTLE REFUGEES NEAR CAMP

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Sep 82 p 21

Article by Yosef Tzuri'el: "Territories Administration Suggests: Settle Refugees Near Camps; There Are 703,000 Refugees in Judea and Samaria Camps According to Israeli Statistics; In Gaza--441,000; UN Relief Agencies Show More"

Text "From our interviews we learn that UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) is a negative element in the effort to rehabilitate the refugees of the camps. There is a constant tension between the UNRWA people and the refugees. They consider the UNRWA a parasite living at their expense because of the perpetuation of the camps."

This is one of the conclusions of a survey conducted 7 years ago by the command of the IDF in Judea and Samaria in the refugee camps under its jurisdiction. The problem was neglected before and after the survey, since the Israeli government at the time did not offer any real solution. The military government for its part, was not interested in aggravating the situation between us and the UNRWA.

The present government has decided to tackle the problem. Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat was appointed coordinator of this project. He is aided by a group of experts who will study the problem and offer solutions for rehabilitation. The minister has already visited several refugee camps in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

This new turn of events will upset the status quo in the camps. For the first time these refugees will be examined at close range, and, for the first time, Israeli authorities will find out what the exact number of refugees living in the camps is.

Differences of Opinion

The UNRWA has been involved with the camps since the day they have been established. After the Six-Day War the question arose as to the status of the camps under Israeli military administration. There were consultations between Israel and the UN, and finally an agreement was reached, according to which Israel committed itself to "facilitate the role of the UNRWA as best it can, making

exception only in cases of security." Under this assumption the government expressed its willingness to insure the security of the workers, installations and property of the UNRWA, allow free movement of its vehicles, exempt the organization from paying customs and taxes of imported supplies and equipment, provide radio and telecommunications services, in other words, it was agreed to keep the status quo.

In return for this commitment, the UNRWA administration agreed to "aid the refugees of Palestine in full cooperation with Israel, in the West Bank and Gaza."

The agreement, phrased on the Israeli side by Michael Comay and on the UNRWA side by Mr Mitchellmore, enabled coexistence under constant tension. Differences started in the first year. In a census conducted soon after the Six-Day War it was found out that there were 120,000 residents in Judea and Samaria with a refugee status. UNRWA gave aid to 180,000 souls, all considered refugees. In Gaza there were 220,000 who fit the description of refugee. UNRWA came up with 330,000.

A survey conducted at the time in nine camps in Judea and Samaria revealed that "the general picture is that nearly all the refugees refuse to leave the camps for several reasons:

- a. Economic considerations. They are given free education, housing, health services and exemption from municipal tax in the camps.
- b. Leaving the camps, as part of a plan, will be construed as an attempt to solve the refugee problem.
- c. The UNRWA administration has a special interest in keeping the status quo. Thus many residents enjoy aid not coming to them and the UNRWA keeps its status. It continues to take care of those who stay as well as those who have left while keeping their refugee status.

To take care means to provide aid without any accurate measure or control. The main beneficiaries are of course those who have remained in the camps. Those who are outside the camps receive basic food products, including flour, legumes, milk, soap and kerosene."

Expected Confrontation

As in the past, there are two sets of figures today about the numbers of the refugees in and outside the camps in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. There is the UNRWA set of figures and the Israeli.

According to the UNRWA there are today 790,000 refugees in Judea and Samaria and 480,000 in Gaza. The Israeli authorities maintain that there are only 703,000 refugees in Judea and Samaria and 441,000 in Gaza. As for the residents of the camps, the Israeli version is that in Gaza 175,000 live in the camps while 65,000 live in the camps in Judea and Samaria. The UNRWA argues that there are 206,000 refugees in the Gaza camps and 85,000 in Judea and Samaria.

The gap between the two sets of figures is not significant. What is significant is the expected confrontation between the Israeli authorities and the UNRWA officials, if and when it is decided to rehabilitate the refugees. The start that was made during the past decade in Gaza has proven that something can be done in cooperation with organization as well as in disregard of it.

The rehabilitation of 6000 families during such a long period is a drop in the bucket. The recent government decision shows that the government is not interested in continuing at such a slow pace. The government wants to change conditions that have been in existence for 34 years. Therefore it has to come to an agreement with the UNRWA, that is, with the UN.

As in other areas, here too the key to the problem is in the hands of the U.S. This superpower pays close to 60 percent of the UNRWA budget, and can bring about a significant change in this organization, not only in Israel but throughout the Middle East.

The civilian administration as well as senior government officials maintain that this is the best time to tackle the refugee problem. For this one needs a budget and a careful coordination of all the concerned bodies.

The rehabilitation of the refugees has to be done gradually, as close as possible to their present home. The question whether refugees will be willing to build a permanent home near their present residence was checked in the past, and the answer was encouraging.

From talks with public figures in the camps we discover that there is a willingness. Time will tell if this is so, and if conditions are right for a gradual liquidation of the refugee camps in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

9565
CSO: 4423/15

GAZA SETTLERS COMPLAIN OF SLOW SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

'Ofra NEQUADA in Hebrew No 47 3 Sep 82 pp 8-10

Article: "Gaza Strip: Continuing from the Beginning"

Text Looking for New Settlers

The road to Mitzpe 'Atzmona runs along the entire length of the Gaza Strip. It affords a quick look at the settlement activities in the area, the building and the families, from whom one can find out what has been done here since the last visit and what is not going so well.

Those in charge of Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip are not satisfied. Not because houses are not being built or trees are not being planted. But the rate is too slow for their taste. The accusing finger is directed at government offices in charge of development and at the Jewish people who do not come in masses to settle the Gaza Strip, an area still threatened by the Autonomy. Only a trickle of families arrives in the area, especially in comparison to the dense Arab population, one of the densest in the world.

The green line separating between the Gaza Strip and the Land of Israel prior to 1967 is still clearly felt. One can sense it as soon as one arrives at the famous Erez barrier. Even the landscape changes at this point. No more square houses with red roof tiles, no more giant fields plowed in straight lines. From here to the fence of the new settlement area in the southern part of the Strip the landscape is dominated by cacti, eucaliptus, giant refugee camps, tin roofs, television antennas, citrus groves and IDF barriers. It feels as if you are going to another country, and that is precisely what worries the settlers in the area. It should also worry the entire Jewish people.

"It is not easy to lure the Jewish people to come to this place," say the members of the local council. "The distance between the Gaza Strip and the center of Israel deters potential settlers. We also lack an adequate economic base. We urgently need families who are willing to come here without worrying about pros and cons." This is what we are told in the new regional center being built in the heart of the Strip, Neve-Deqalim.

The hope that after the evacuation of the Sinai the government was going to focus on developing this area did not materialize. While new settlements such

as Bedolah, Mitzpe 'Atzmona and Never Deqalim will soon be finished, the problem is not solved.

Gan Or: An Additional Year of Service

Gan Or, the northernmost settlement in the Gaza Strip, is about to set a world record. The number of families in the settlement is about to increase from 6 to 35, a growth of 600 percent. It is no wonder that Yitzhaq Amitay of the local absorption committee has his hands full.

Amitay speaks openly: "The past 2 years have been difficult. Several families have left. But today, as we are about to become a permanent settlement, 23 km south of here (here meaning Minsarim, the former NAHAL outpost now used a temporary home for Gan Or), we are going over 70 applications of families who would like to live in Gan Or. We promise them a religious life, sea view, and, most important, great opportunities for personal contribution."

When one arrives here and sees a settlement of only six families, one begins to have skeptical thoughts. Ziva Hamdi from Rishon Letzion, who is doing her year of National Service here, is angry at such thoughts: "What, you are not enchanted? So what if there are only six families? this is only temporary. Next year it will be so crowded here you won't be able to get in."

Anyone who doubts Ziva should consider the fact that Ziva and her friend Leah Treistman from Jerusalem have decided to stay here for another year. Is it because they are not taking care of little children, as do most of the girls who serve, but are equal workers in the local farming and school? "Only in a place like this one really understands the meaning of the word service," Ziva argues.

Qatif: The End of the Beach Season

On the seashore of Qatif the third beach season will end this August. They will say goodbye to the soft sand and the Hawaiian palm shades, take down the red and white flags and put up the black flag until next spring.

Moti Sander and Hazi Coehn of nearby Ganey Tal will close down their refreshment stand overlooking the beach and will return to the vegetable hot houses. "We don't know if you should write about this beautiful beach. If you do, people will come here and we will lose our special quiet atmosphere. On the other hand," they add, "we have to make a living. So write."

The shore at Qatif has two beaches, a segregated one and a mixed one. This is the only beach in Israel where the music on the loudspeaker is hasidic. The beach is closed on the Sabbath. Next year they expect to have a religious resort, "the religious Nueiba." Moti and Hazi expect it to be a great success.

Moti says that the most beautiful time of day at the beach is sunset. The red sun begins to go down, the horizon is filled with fishing boats from Rafah who go out for night fishing, and the surface of the sea looks like a smooth red glass. After sunset some local residents come here for a swim, will discuss their daily problems, will do some singing and will go home. They have to get up early.

AFRICAN-ARAB CULTURAL FORUM CREATED

African-Arab Forum Reviewed

Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 24 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] The third Asilah African-Arab cultural forum sponsored by the Al Mohit Cultural Association in Asilah, yesterday ended its meetings with a discussion in plenary session of a new humanistic and cultural world order, while a committee was instructed to finalize the forum's articles.

Right away, the intellectuals who gathered together in Asilah were split on how to define the new humanistic and cultural world order, some seeing the establishment of this new order in a future perspective, others clinging much more to the preservation of heritage, and the last group finally trying to be more pragmatic in order to more effectively search for objectives.

The debate was set going by Professor Mahdi El Manjra, who thanked President Senghor for having "restored our chromosomal and genetic memory" by talking about Africa's pre-history Saturday evening. But for Professor El Manjra, it is ultimately the future that will help us restore the past, because the world is shifting so that "productive societies" are in the process of changing into "information societies" now, and the problem is knowing precisely what place the Third World would occupy in this future society"... "Henceforth we have to have plenty of courage to choose its future, we have to decolonize it before beginning," he said.

For Professor El Manjra, science or culture are not universal, as one would be tempted to think. The strongest one is the one who imposes them; hence he is the one who becomes universal. He also warned against adopting pathéistes [translation unknown] positions, "We should not be monkeys who imitate the past because it is more secure; we should stake out, define our place in the future as of now: there is no history with a capital H; it is described and read differently according to the time and place. For example, the historical approach to the French revolution has changed many times and it will change again in the year 2000."

Before finishing his speech, Professor El Manjra suggested setting up a data bank in Asilah to help Arab and African researchers grasp the Arab-African reality in a more scientific manner.

For Professor Ismaeil Sabri 'Abdallah (Egypt), vice-president of the Forum, culture can only be defined in a multicultural world. Is this to say that this world can emerge as a standardization as multi-shaped as it may be? No, he says; any standardization implies an impoverishment of the individual, whereas the enrichment of the latter rests in plural communication. Communication can only be defined as a right to knowledge, a right to dialog.

Communication presupposes at least two partners who are trying to understand each other: apart from it, to think of information which presupposes that the informed experiences the information according to the own desire of the one who sets himself up as the informer.

In the opinion of this Egyptian intellectual, the Asilah Forum brings together all the conditions necessary to be a catalyst of Arab-African information by making communicability between the two parties easier.

For his part, the intellectual Mustafa Filali emphasized the values that constitute culture's foundation. Muslim society, he pointed out, has its own values and it is unthinkable that one can separate the individual from the whole. Culture, as a whole, is fashioned by personal contributions, the right to be different always has to be respected; a rich culture can only be a creative culture.

For his part, Abdallah Cherkaoui cannot conceive of a new world cultural order without cultural security for the Third World; if one speaks from nutritional security to cultural security. It is also necessary to insure cultural security for the Third World. It has to be preserved from invasions of a cultural nature that can distort the essence of its thought. This cultural security, he said, is the only thing that can respond to challenges and allow the creator from the Third World to pursue his activities.

For him the problem is also a problem of values. If the Third World relinquishes them too, it will have no specific character and no reference point for taking off. He said one has to return to the heritage and this is the resource that will make it possible to invest in the future.

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui did not fail to express surprise at the position of some intellectuals who have prosecuted the West at Asilah at a time when they should have prosecuted the Third World instead, because, if the latter has shown such a delay, in the end it is by its fault.

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui pointed out that there is nothing shameful about looking for progress where it is located: "If we have to be the students of the West in order to be able to get started, we should not hesitate to do so."

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui cited the example of Japan which decided as early as 1830 to go to the West's school, without going to the extreme of denying its history, its heritage, and its values. The results obtained by Japan are there to answer hesitant intellectuals. Japan is overtaking the most industrialized countries. Moulay Ahmed Alaoui compared Japan and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's Turkey by pointing out that, in Muslim countries, a distinction cannot be made between

culture and religion; this was Ataturk's mistake, who, by wanting to westernize his country at all cost, engulfed it in a sham civilization with no spiritual base and whose veneer is peeling away more and more.

Moulay Ahmed Alaoui also pointed out that the crisis that Turkey is currently experiencing comes in large part from this decision of Ataturk's.

The cultural forum's meetings continued yesterday with the discussion of Arab-African cooperation. Several ideas had already been suggested during the speeches and can be summed up in:

- the creation of an Arab-African data bank.
- the production of documentary films on African and Arab countries.
- the sponsorship of art exhibits in Africa and the Arab world.
- the creation of an Arab-African publishing house.
- the exchange of programs and professors between the Arab-African universities.
- the necessity of rewriting a new history of the Arab world and Africa.
- and finally, the creation of an Asilah prize to reward the best Arab-African writers and painters.

Nongovernmental Association Established

Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 25 Aug 82 pp 2-3

[Text] A nongovernmental African-Arab Association of Art and Culture has just been created at Asilah in connection with the African-Arab Forum sponsored by the Al Mohit Cultural Association in this town.

The purpose of this association, named "The African-Arab Cultural Forum," is to encourage cultural and artistic cooperation between Arabs and Africans by developing means for contact and an exchange of information between intellectuals, writers, artists, and people interested in the area of information and the arts in general.

The forum is also inclined to support local, national, and regional collectivities prepared to work within the framework of the objectives of this nongovernmental organization.

The creation of this organization was also announced during the closing session of the Asilah African-Arab Forum meetings held Monday under the chairmanship of Leopold Sedar Senghor, the former president of Senegal, and in the presence of SAR [Her Royal Highness] Princess Wijda ni Ali (Jordan), Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, government minister, Abdellatif Hajjaji, deputy minister of Housing and Territorial Management, Driss Fellah, SM [His Majesty] the King's governor in the province of Tangiers and many Arab and African intellectuals.

During this same session, the participants in this meeting decided that the co-presidency of the African-Arab Cultural Forum is up to Jordan's crown prince, SAR [His Royal Highness] Hassan Bin Talal and President Leopold Sedar Senghor. The audience also decided that the secretary general of this

organization falls within the province of Mohammed ben Aissa, president of the Al Mohit Cultural Association.

After the authorization of the African-Arab Cultural Forum's budget, which amounts to 4,000 dollars, Moulay Ahmed Alaoui took the floor to convey his satisfaction with the creation of this organization in the town of Asilah, the headquarters of the Al Mohit Cultural Association, something that will make this small town a center of cultural influence throughout the African continent and the Arab world, thanks to the Mohammed V center for African-Arab communication, which will be launched in this same town, he said.

9064
CSO: 4519/303

EFFECTS OF 1981 LAW AIMED AT BOOSTING WAGES, EMPLOYMENT OUTLINED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 30 Aug 82 p 6

[Article by Y. Barouni and M. Marrouki]

[Text] In 1981, a turning point for the Sixth Plan and the third decade of development, the administration adopted many measures to encourage job creation.

According to the provisions of Law 81-75 of 9 August 1981 regarding the promotion of youth employment, any industrial, commercial, crafts or agricultural enterprise affiliated with social security which agrees to hire youths between the ages of 17 and 25 years holding secondary technical, professional or agricultural education diplomas or even having completed the level without having obtained a diploma and who are looking for their first jobs, can be entitled to two types of advantages.

In the first place, the enterprise may benefit from a subsidy that the state grants based upon employment of youths for a training period of 1 year. The subsidy amounts to 500 dinars per trainee.

This system, implemented in October 1981, enabled 2,033 youths to be hired during the last 3 months of the year.

The second large scale measure aimed at reviving employment was the subject of Law 81-76 of 9 August 1981 dealing with creation of the National Crafts and Small Businesses Promotion Fund. With initial funding of 400 dinars, a business promoter eligible for assistance from this fund can claim a loan of 3,600 dinars and a guarantee of access to middle term bank credit of 6,000 dinars. For projects whose costs range from 10,000 to 20,000 dinars, including working capital, the promoter will be able to sign an employment savings contract enabling him to make up the required self financing which corresponds to 20 percent of the equity. Under these two systems, the equity must amount to at least 40 percent of the investment.

Considering the economy, within the context of the law on follow-up financing, it has been decided to speed up completion of large projects and to begin certain projects scheduled for the Sixth Plan period quickly.

The level of employment improved significantly in 1981, a year in which results exceeded preliminary forecasts of 46,700 new jobs. Furthermore, in the agricultural sector, the increase in the employment rate for actively employed persons, the number of whom remained stable, is evidence of some improvement in demand.

Considering the delays encountered during the four first years of the Fifth Plan, employment results remained about 12 percent below forecasts. In any case, this situation hides developments which varied by sector. The shrinking of employment forecasts was particularly significant in building and public works as well as in fishing and tourism, while forecasts were practically achieved in the manufacturing industries and transportation. The number of jobs created in administrative services showed a definite increase and even initial forecasts by 21 percent.

As for the fishing sector, in 1981 it was able to provide 1,000 new jobs.

In accordance with the forecasts and for the third year in a row, job losses were recorded in the mining sector, especially following a slowing of activity in non profitable mines, some of which have even been shut down. As these losses have been more than compensated by new jobs in the energy sector, in 1981 net jobs created for the two sectors amounted to 320, as compared to 970 in 1980.

The manufacturing industries continue to be the major job providers, providing more than 40 percent of total new jobs created each year. In 1981, jobs were created for 19,800 people, 6,300 in the textile industries, 3,920 in the mechanical and electrical industries, 3,670 in the food and agricultural industry, 2,540 in the construction materials industry, 650 persons in chemical industries, and 2,720 in various other industries, as compared to a total of 17,420 people in 1980.

In the building and public works sector, where business made a new recovery in 1981, the number of jobs available improved following the growth in the rate of new job creation which enabled placement of 6,300 persons as compared to just 4,000 in 1980.

The role of administrative services, involving the tertiary sector, in job creation is still predominant. It was even strengthened in 1981, a year in which the administration created 9,000 jobs as compared to 6,000 in 1980.

Various other sectors created 11,500 jobs, 2,500 in transportation and 1,500 in tourism, as compared to 2,000 and 900 respectively in 1980.

Aside from the progress made on the domestic level, job possibilities increased with the increase in emigration which enabled a growing number of job seekers to be placed abroad. Showing the effects of the resumption of emigration to Libya, where 4,465 persons were placed as compared to just 1,716 in 1980, and of the dispatching of larger contingents to the Gulf countries under the new bilateral agreements concluded with some of these countries, the number of Tunisian workers placed abroad increased to 7,693, or double the number recorded in 1980, but below the 1979 level and still far from the record number in 1978.

Taking permanent returns into consideration, net placements abroad over the past 5 years have involved about 63,000 persons. Thus, during the Fifth Plan period, emigration has been able to absorb almost all of the difference between new jobs offered by the national economy and additional job demand, estimated at 275,000 jobs for the past 5 years. Indeed, the number of unemployed males between the ages of 18 and 59 has remained practically stable at a level of 180,000 persons, representing 12 percent of the active population.

Wages

In consideration of the increase in the cost of living, in March 1981 the administration granted a new general wage increase effective as of 1 April which was based on wage categories and salary levels. Thus, the SMAG agricultural guaranteed minimum wage rose from 1.631 to 2 dinars per day, an increase of 12.3 percent, and the SMIG interoccupational guaranteed minimum wage was increased by 18 percent to amount to 311 millimes per hour.

The increase for workers paid by the month was 10 dinars per month. For those paid more than the SMIG, the increase took the form of non-taxable additional pay of 12.5 dinars for salaries between the SMIG and 82 dinars, of 15 dinars for salaries between 82 and 110 dinars, and 17.5 dinars for salaries over 140 dinars per month.

For administration employees, the additional pay was set at between 15 and 20 dinars depending on the employee's job category.

Furthermore, important social measures were implemented in 1981 to improve pensions for retired persons or their beneficiaries and to strengthen the advantages of social welfare while extending its benefits to other wage categories.

9693
CSO: 4519/312

TUNISIA

PROGRESS OF SMALL TRADES PROMOTION FUND CHARTED

Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 420, 20 Sep 82 p 11

[Text] More than a year after its launching, the National Handicrafts and Small Trades Promotion Fund (FONPAM) can look back on remarkable development. Results registered over the past three months confirm the steadily increasing interest in the Fund, intended to help in the fight against unemployment in certain economic activities, to encourage young promoters with good ideas but inadequate financial means to become real producers, and to save handicrafts and the small trades from extinction.

From 30 June to 1 September 1982, the number of projects completed went from 159 to 248 and self-financing -- that is, financial participation of project promoters -- from 53,000 to 82,000 dinars. Donations or more precisely, government subsidies given in the form of allocations for the completion of projects, went from 464,000 to 696,000 dinars. Medium-term credits rose from 774,000 to 1,164,000 dinars during the same period. This makes a total investment of 1,942,000 dinars on 1 September 1982, compared with 1,291,000 on 30 June of the same year.

On 1 September 1982, the distribution of projects was as follows: 147 projects in Zone 1, 38 in Zone 2, 10 in Zone 3, 36 in Zone 4 and 17 in Zone 5, or a total of 248 projects. The figure in itself is a very promising result given the newness of the law, which seems to apply to a large number of citizens increasingly involved in handicrafts and the small trades.

With respect to activities, on 1 September 1982, 13 projects completed involve artistic handicrafts, while 235 concern utilitarian trades and service, 137 cover cottage manufacturing industries and 98 involve small service trades.

One should also emphasize that since 1 July 1982 and up to 1 September 1982, the banks financed 89 new projects making a total investment of 651,000 dinars, including 390,000 granted by the banks in the form of medium-term credits.

Zonal distribution of these new projects is as follows: 59 in Zone 1, 5 in Zone 2, 2 in Zone 3, 15 in Zone 4 and 8 in Zone 5.

The increase in the number of projects illustrates the great importance which the government attributes to the promotion of an economic activity that is more and more profitable as it is more highly structured. Consequently, the

meeting which was held in April by Mzali and officials from the different ministries affected by the law has begun to bear fruit in the way of improved application of the law. The banks seem more and more involved in this application, which must be scientific and profitable for small operators.

However, much remains to be done in the way of increasing the number of projects to be carried out in Zones 4 and 5 so that the objectives of the law will be completely attained and so that the zones will take full advantage of the different actions undertaken by the government in order to achieve multidimensional, coordinated and balanced development.

Overall Situation (in thousands of dinars)

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Self-Fin.</u>	<u>Alloca.</u>	<u>Med.-term Cred.</u>	<u>Total Invest.</u>
30 June 1982	159	53	464	774	1,291
1 September 1982	248	82	696	1,164	1,942
Variations	89	29	232	390	651

Use of Allocation (in thousands of dinars)

	<u>Use of Allocation</u>	<u>Percentage Rate of Use</u>	<u>Balance</u>
30 June 1982	464	24.6	1,427
1 September	696	36.8	1,195

Zonal Distribution of Number of Projects

	<u>Zone 1</u>	<u>Zone 2</u>	<u>Zone 3</u>	<u>Zone 4</u>	<u>Zone 5</u>	<u>Total</u>
30 June 1982	88	33	8	21	9	159
1 September 1982	147	38	10	36	17	248
Variations	59	5	2	15	8	89

Distribution by Activity of Number of Projects

	<u>30 June 1982</u>	<u>1 September 1982</u>	<u>Variations</u>
Artistic handicrafts	7	13	6
Utilitarian and service trades and crafts	152	235	83
Cottage manufacturing	84	137	53
Small service trades	68	98	30
Total	159	248	89

11,464

CSO: 4519/18

END

**END OF
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DATE FILMED

November 19, 1982

Debbie